Saturday, November 21, 2009 | 11 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 346 | P18

Subsidies to state firms up 4.5% to P14.5B **BUSINESS**/ B1

After 25 years, US talk show queen Oprah to end show 2011 **WORLD**/ A22

Bill to 'chop-chop' Hundred Islands hit **ACROSS**/ A15

Better the second time around **SUPER**/ C1

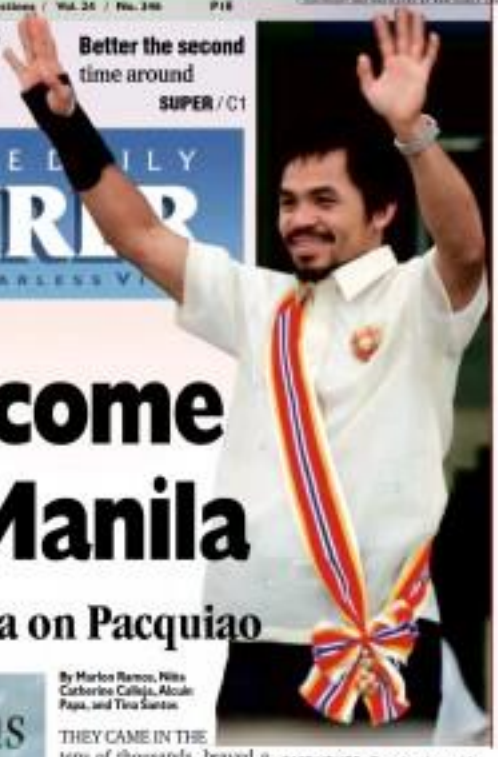
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Ad Congress told: Get inside minds of children

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—IF COMPANIES want to reach children, they will have to get inside their young minds and, preferably, with the use of technology, a marketing and network executive told delegates of the 21st Philippine Advertising

AD CONGRESS/ A6



Rock star welcome for Manny in Manila

Palace confers Order of Sikatuna on Pacquiao

NO TROUBLE IN PARADISE Manny Pacquiao and his wife Jinkee, with their children Michael, Jinsel and Princess and the champ's mother Dionisia, are a picture of a happy family. Pacquiao dismissed rumors romantically linking him to an actress. ROBERT VILLAFLOR

By Marlon Ramos, Nikko Catherine Calleja, Alcuin Papa, and Tina Santos

THEY CAME IN THE tens of thousands, braved a staggering heat, and showered him with accolades no other Filipino boxer had ever received. Some called him "Sing" and one student in a St. Paul University uniform screamed: "Take me as your scholar!"

Others in the crowds—estimated by police and organizers at totalling between 100,000 and 200,000—sweetly shouted "Krista," the name of a sexy actress rumors had romantically linked with him. (See related story on Page A10).

The conquering hero ignored the teasing, waved, and threw out T-shirts embossed with his initials MP in the shape of a fist as the motorcade rolled through four cities yesterday.

Then, in the end, at a victory party in the SM Mall of Asia, he sang the love song "Born for You" for one woman—his wife Jinkee. She blushed as the crowd roared.

Manny Pacquiao, the golden-haired champion, was home again.

In an unparalleled tribute to him, President Macapagal-Arroyo crowned Pacquiao's homecoming by conferring on him the Order of Sikatuna, with the rank of Datu, one of the highest honors given by Malacañang to civilians and one usually awarded to statesmen.

ROCK STAR/ A10

RARE HONOR Pacquiao glows with pride after he was conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, by President Arroyo at the Quirino Grandstand—an award usually given only to statesmen. LEANDRO ALZONA

New US envoy to RP named; Palace sorry to see Kenney go

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FOLLOWING HIGH-LEVEL US VISITS to Asia last week, US President Barack Obama has nominated an Afrian-American career ambassador, Harry K. Thomas Jr., as Washington's new envoy to the Philippines.

The 53-year-old Thomas, a 25-year veteran of the US foreign service, just recently took the post of director general of the service. He earlier served as ambassador to India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Peru and director of the State Department's Operations Center. He was also special assistant to the secretary and executive secretary of the State Department.

Thomas' nomination comes after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's two-day visit to the Philippines and Obama's visit to Singapore last week as part of a four-nation Asia tour.

Obama also announced the nomination of a close political ally, David Adelman, a state senator in Georgia and a force behind the President's record-breaking fund-raising in last year's election, to be ambassador to

NEW US/ A10

Ebarle slay suspect tied to earlier killing

By Nancy Carvajal, Jocelyn R. Uy and Jerry E. Esplanada

THE AMERICAN WHO SHOT AND killed the son of a Malacañang official over a traffic altercation late Wednesday was also involved in a vehicular accident a few years ago which led to the death of a government official, police said yesterday.

The suspect has been identified as Jason Ivler, 27, a stepson of Briton Stephen Pollard, an economist at the Asian Development Bank. Ivler is the son of Pollard's wife, Marlene Aguilar, from a previous marriage. Marlene is a sister of singer Freddie Aguilar.

Pollard, 58, is the registered owner of the blue Honda CRV with diplomatic plate 20003, which Ivler was allegedly

EBARLE/ A10

'Emperor' first to file CoC for president

By Kristine L. Alave

WHAT THEY LACK IN QUALIFICATION and resource, they make up for in enthusiasm and grandiose plans.

Rigoberto Madera Jr., a 63-year-old who claims to be a retired "six-star general," was the first person to file his certificate of candidacy (CoC) for president yesterday at the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Madera said God had conducted survey in October and said he was in the top spot, way ahead of President Joseph Estrada.

After he wins the presidency, Madera said his next step is to become successor to US President Barack Obama and then secretary general of the United Nations.

'EMPEROR'/ A6

Villar's NP, Marcos KBL forge alliance

By Michael Lim Ubac

CAN THE DICTATOR'S SON AND activist lawmakers seek seats in the Senate under the same party banner?

Bicos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., son and namesake of the late dictator, yesterday formally joined the senatorial slate of the Nacionalista Party (NP), which has also offered slots to Representatives Samar Ocampo and Liza Maza of the militant party-list groups Bayan Muna and Gabriela.

NP standard-bearer and presidential Sen. Manuel Villar and Marcos of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) signed at the Laurel House in Mandaluyong City a "coalition agreement" formalizing the alliance of the

VILLAR'S/ B1

NACIONALISTA Party standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar and Bicos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan seal their parties' alliance. Marcos Jr. is now part of the NP senatorial slate.

LP not letting Recto go even as it tries to win back Serge O

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE LIBERAL PARTY (LP) IS not letting go of Ralph Recto even as it tries to win back former Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who has locked in protest of the former socioeconomic planning secretary's inclusion in its senatorial slate.

LP campaign manager Florencio Abad yesterday said that when he last spoke with Osmeña, the latter had not sought Recto's removal from the ticket.

Not that, Abad said in a phone interview, the party would do it.

"They've already with us," Abad said of Recto and his wife, Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos. "It's not a wise thing to get them out when they're already in."

Abad reiterated that the LP together with "friends and relatives," were redoubling efforts to reconcile with and retain Osmeña, a former senator like Recto, and who is also allied in the party's senatorial slate.

"But at the end of the day, it's

LP NOT/ A5

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

P27M
18 22 27 35 2 1
SUPER LOTTO 6/49
5 9 4 8 6 0
ULTRA LOTTO 6/58
7 7 1 4 9 7 8
MEGA LOTTO 6/45
12 17 19 25 31 35
P4,503,745.00

'Palace now wants Erap to run'

Maceda claims Noynoy bid changed administration stand

By Christine O. Avendaño

ESTRADA

THE CAMP OF FORMER President Joseph "Erap" Estrada now believes he won't be disqualified from running for president next year following recent statements by Malacañang which apparently wants him to run to further divide the opposition.

This was the assessment of former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, who told reporters yesterday that the Palace had changed its stance on Estrada's eligibility to run following the entry of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who is running for president under the Liberal Party.

The former senator had said earlier "the mood from Malacañang through our friends, they seemed (ang dinagundong)."

"But since Noynoy came into the picture, that seems to have changed that they are now saying Erap is qualified," he said, citing statements made recently by Press Secretary Cerge Remonde and Lakas-vice president Prospero Pichay.

Further division

"Because they said (it's better there are so many candidates of the opposition so as not disqualify Erap because according to them, they believe it will further divide the opposition," Maceda added.

Aside from Estrada and Aquino, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. is also running for president under the opposition banner. The administration is fielding former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro as its presidential bet.

That was why Estrada said he felt "very, very confident" that he would be disqualified.

But if ever Estrada is disqualified, Maceda said they intend to field Sen. Jinggoy Estrada as substitute to his father.

He said substitution is allowed.

"If a candidate dies, withdraws, or is disqualified, the party can make a substitution," Maceda said.

But he said the Commission on Elections was not yet clear on the issue of whether the vice for the substituted candidate on the ballot can be counted in favor of the substitute.

Still, he said Jinggoy would be an ideal substitute as his ballots given that the name of Estrada would be printed on the ballot.

Complete slate

Maceda said the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) would have a complete senatorial slate.

At present, PMP has identified 17 possible senatorial candidates.

These include Jinggoy Estrada, Sen. Jinggy Ejercito Estrada, who had just joined the Liberal Party, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, Joey de Venecia, detained Gen. Danny Lim, former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, former Rep. Apolinario Lozada, former party-list Rep. JV Bautista, Dean Amado Valdez, Grace Poe, Ramonette Ruby Arenas, Rex Cortez and Teresa Kolias.

CHINESE ENTREPRENEURS CONVENTION
President Macapagal-Arroyo and Jaime Lucio Tan welcome Jia Qinglin, chair of China's People's Political Consultative Conference, (center) today's 10th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention at the Manila Hotel. The Philippine International Convention Center Tan is the chair of the committee.

GMA gabster to run in another party

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S son, deputy spokesperson is running for public office under another party and doesn't mind dragging it out with the ruling party's candidate.

Undersecretary Kidlat Tandoc Jr. has taken a leave from his post to seek a congressional seat under the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC) in the lone district of Pasig City to test his political mettle.

He said that it might seem odd for him to run under another party than the administration's Lakas. But he said he is not sure all parts of the dynasties include political. He said he chose to run with NPC because his opponent was a long-time member of the ruling party.

"I think ever before I was born, the other party was already with Lakas. I can't do anything. The world will become smaller for us," he said in his latest press briefing, choosing not to identify his opponent.

The ruling party failed to forge a coalition with NPC for the May 2010 presidential elections and to persuade the latter's vice presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda to run under the administration's banner.

Tandoc, however, said he was confident that President Macapagal-Arroyo would support his candidacy, but did not expect her to campaign for him in attending his proclamation rally and tossing his hand.

"The others might complain," he said when asked whether Ms. Arroyo would raise his hand at his proclamation rally.

"The President is like any mother who is very supportive to those close to her. And the President, in her court words, said she's going to support whatever plans or aspirations that I have," he said.

Golez has been tapped to serve as the President's deputy spokesperson along with Undersecretary Lorelei Fajardo and Prof. Gary Olivar. He has held the post for at least two years.

Golez also said that Lakas never attempted to persuade him to run with the party because it was aware that it already had "a strong candidate" in Bombit Guy running for Congress.

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(MONDAY & TUESDAY)
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INSPECTION DATES
NOVEMBER 20, 21 & 22, 2009
BOBCAT SKID-STEER LOADER
"NO RESERVE/NO PRICE"
FAST STARTS AT 9:00 AM EVERY
MITSUBISHI MONTERO
KOMATSU PC50-1
ISUZU DUMP TRUCK
ISUZU FORWARD
ISUZU LOW BOOM TRUCK
ISUZU CYL BOOM TRUCK
ISUZU CYL BOOM TRUCK
ISUZU CYL BOOM TRUCK
FORD EXCURSION
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AFP chief open to term extension

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ARMED FORCES Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado is willing to have his term extended until after the 2010 elections if President Macapagal-Arroyo says so.

"Whatever is the decision of the President, if his term is extended, the chief of staff will, of course, follow and agree to that extension," said AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. in an interview with reporters yesterday.

Presidential aspirants Senators Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Manuel "Manny" Villar and Fenuda "Chiz" Escudero have signed a manifesto urging President Arroyo to extend Ibrado's term to ensure stability and continuity in the leadership of the AFP during the crucial May 2010 elections, which will determine Ms Arroyo's successor.

"The elections are particularly crucial and important... because of the fact that this will be the very first time that the Philippines will be conducting automated elections," read the manifesto, a copy of which was provided to reporters at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Surprised by manifesto

The manifesto also pointed out that Ibrado's term extension until June 30, 2010 would ensure the impartiality and reliability of the institution during the elections as the military chief continued to enjoy the support and respect of the entire AFP.

Brawner said Ibrado, who had extended to retire on March 31, 2010, was surprised by the manifesto. Whether or not his term will be extended by the president, the military chief will continue to exercise professionalism in his job, he said.

"He will do his best to accomplish the mission of the AFP until his term ends," said Brawner.

When Ibrado retires in March, two months before the 2010 elections, he will relinquish the highest military post possible to the general next in line, Army Chief Lt. Gen. Delfin Bangit, one of the trusted generals of Ms Arroyo.

For his part, acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales said he would not interfere on the selection or appointment of military officials in the AFP.

"I won't mind whoever is there... I respect the institution in matters of making decisions for itself," Gonzales told reporters during a fellowship dinner with the media at Camp Aguinaldo on Thursday night.

He conceded that the military had been perennially linked on the "bad side" of the elections but in May, he would make sure the AFP will make it credible.

"We're not going to argue with the people who are accusing us of manipulating the elections in the past. We'll just do our job and let the people judge our performance to make sure that the election in 2010 becomes credible," Gonzales said.

Comelec junks ACT, Courage party-list bids

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTION (Comelec) has rejected the bids of Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and Courage to be accredited as party-list groups and join in the 2010 elections, citing lack of constituency.

In two separate resolutions, First Division Commissioners Rene Sarmiento, Armando Velasco and Gregorio Larrazabal said the two organizations had failed to prove that they have presence in majority of the regions.

The Comelec also noted that Courage, a group that represents government employees, failed to submit a copy of its Article of Incorporation. It was not able to prove that it represents a "marginalized and underrepresented sector," the Comelec said.

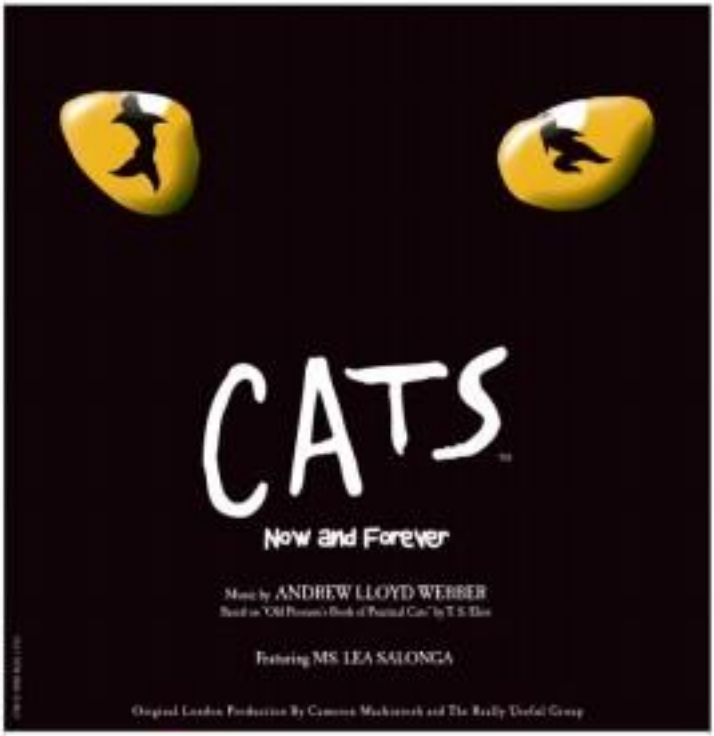
ACT president Antonio Tinio slammed the Comelec for rejecting their petition for party-list registration. "Of course, we said. We have members in the whole country. We are calling on our members to appear before their local Comelec offices to prove that ACT exists," he said.

The 15,000-strong organization, he said, will appeal the Comelec decision.

While ACT and other rejected party-list groups appeal, the Comelec yesterday started to accept manifestations of intent from qualified party-list groups.

As of 2:30 p.m., the commission secretariat said it had already received 13 manifestations to participate in the party-list race in the 2010 national elections, including two from Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), Sinagang, Bukid and Anak Mindanao (Anad) Party-list.

Other groups that filed their intent were 1-Ocak, Buhay, Abs, An Waray, 1-Aasa, Abakada and Ako Bicolnon.



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citi

TRO sets back anti-smuggling drive, says PASG

By TJ Burgonio

A COURT ORDER SUSPENDING THE OPERations of the controversial Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) turned penniless the agency from checking the entry of imported goods in the run-up to the holidays season, officials admitted yesterday.

"It is a huge setback because we have ongoing operations. We have profiles of certain individuals and consignees. With 20 days running Christmas, the volume of importation is high," Guillermo Francia, PASG director for intelligence, said in a Malacañang briefing.

Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III, a lawyer, however, yesterday agreed with Francia that the 20-day suspension restraining order has effectively "disoperationalized" PASG.

"And that is probably what these smugglers are counting right now," he said in the same briefing.

Francia said PASG had instructed its legal team to drum up a legal action to oppose the TRO.

On Thursday, the Manila Regional Trial Court last Thursday issued a TRO stopping the government from implementing Executive Order No. 624 which created the PASG.

British trader Stu Ting Alpha Kwok had petitioned the court to issue the TRO, arguing that EO 624 had become a source of abuses and harassment, and that PASG's creation violated the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers.

PASG agents raided Kwok's unit at the Baillo Place in Orlilgan Grande, Pasig City, on Aug. 13, seized some P300 million worth of diamonds and other jewelry, and arrested her.

Kwok's lawyer claimed that she was arrested without any warrant, and that her arrest was based on mere suspicion that she was smuggling jewelry into the country in violation of the Tariff and Customs Code.

Meanwhile, Jeffrey Tacaocao, PASG director for administration and finance, said there was nothing irregular in its Nov. 6 raid on the Starcon compound in Pasig City.

He said armed a controversy after the Eastern Chamber of Commerce reported to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that PASG agents tried to extort money from one of the locators, the Korean-owned PKM Enterprises.

But PKM Enterprises lashed the chamber's report until apologized to the PASG.

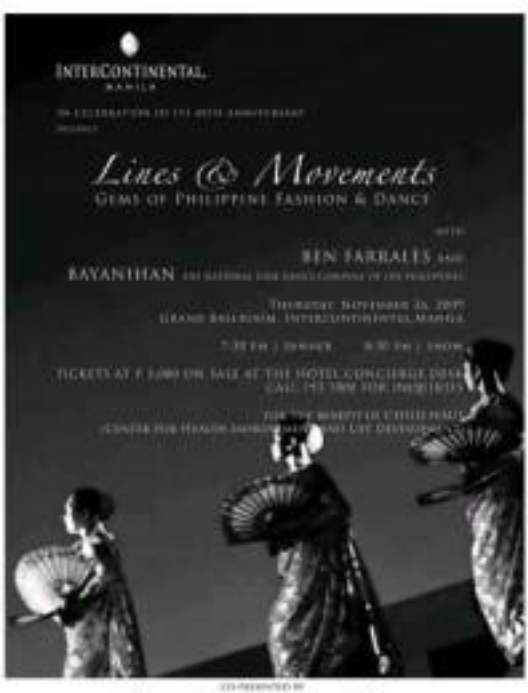
"So I told you this PASG did not hold our operations, nor asked for some money. However, our delivery personnel were put on layoff for several days due to no deliveries as our deliveries were held for a few days," PASG owner said in a Nov. 19 letter to the chamber's president, Edward Chang. PASG furnished this media a copy of the letter.

Ermita had ruled out any investigation after the PASG disputed the alleged attempt of extortion by PASG.

The PASG also found an unlikely defender—opposition Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, who said the PASG should be spared from foreigners if the government wants to address corruption and loose sagging revenue collections.

In a press statement, Escudero said the incident involving alleged extortion against Korean businessmen has already been debunked by the personalities who were supposed victims of the alleged extortion.

BIR CHIEF AT CPC LUNCH Officer-in-Charge Joel Tan Torres of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) receives from Raoul Angangco, co-managing partner of Villaraza Cruz Marcelo & Angangco law office (CPC Law), a limited edition commemorative plate at a cocktail in honor of the BIR chief held at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel recently. Torres spoke of the new direction the BIR is taking under his leadership before an audience of fellow big taxpayer-clients of The Firm. At right is Sylvester Tantiong, head of the Firm's tax department.



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MAJOR COMPONENT PARTS OF NFA-MAINA ELISA'S 1HP/H SHTAKE MODEL

The National Food Authority, Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Cabanatuan City, invites all manufacturers/suppliers of agricultural machineries to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the supply and delivery of major component parts of NFA-Maina Elisa's 1HP/H Shatake Threshers.

The total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), which amounts to P985,760.00 inclusive of 12% VAT and delivery costs to NFA-Cabanatuan City, is broken down, the item description of the required machine parts and estimates are enumerated below:

LOT NO.	ITEM/DESCRIPTION (Major Component Parts)	QTY.	UNIT COST (PhP)	TOTAL AMOUNT (PhP)
1	Feeding Chamber Complete Welded	1 pcs.	76,800.00	76,800.00
	Feeding Chamber Welded	1 pc.	4,800.00	4,800.00
	Feeding Chamber Cover Welded	1 pc.	4,800.00	4,800.00
	Feeding Chamber Complete Welded	1 pcs.	76,800.00	76,800.00
	Feeding Chamber Complete Welded	1 pcs.	76,800.00	76,800.00
	Feeding Chamber Reinforcement Sheet Metal	2 pcs.	2,400.00	4,800.00
			Subtotal	247,201.00
2	Rotor Screen	1 pcs.	38,400.00	38,400.00
	Rotor Screw Shaft	1 pcs.	38,400.00	38,400.00
			Subtotal	76,800.00
3	Feeding Hopper Complete Shaft Welded	1 pcs.	57,600.00	57,600.00
	Feeding Hopper Complete Shaft Unwelded	1 pcs.	57,600.00	57,600.00
	Feeding Hopper Complete Shaft Welded	1 pcs.	57,600.00	57,600.00
	Feeding Hopper Cover Welded	1 pcs.	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Feeding Hopper Sprocket	1 pcs.	1,200.00	1,200.00
			Subtotal	175,200.00
			GRAND TOTAL	985,760.00

*The major component parts shall be of genuine Maina parts.

Bid submission is on-going at the NFA-CLRO and bids are accepted only opened at the opening.

The supply and delivery of the mentioned parts shall be made within sixty (60) days after receipt of Notice to Deliver/Proceed.

Interested bidders shall request/purchase bid documents from the PBAC Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Bonifacio Drive, Cabanatuan City upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P1,000.00 and submission of the following:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Photocopy of DTI business name registration / SEC Registration and/or BIR Registration certificate, whichever is applicable

Eligibility criteria include the following documents among others:

1. Major components attached to the major component parts to be supplied
2. Sworn statement of bidder's single largest contract as principal contractor, adjusted to current prices using the consumer price index, equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC for the contract being bid, within the immediately preceding year. Similar contracts refer to the contract to be bid, which should be **at least twenty five (25%) percent of the approved Budget of the contract to be bid**

The bidding activities will be conducted at the NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	PLACE
1.	Sale of Invitation	November 11, 2009	NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City
2.	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 11 – December 2, 2009 (Regular working days – 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)	
3.	Pre-Bidding Conference	December 3, 2009 / 10:00 am	Conference Room NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City
4.	Submission and Opening of Bids	December 10, 2009 / 10:00 am	Conference Room NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a one-envelope/single proposal system as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and to the satisfaction of the bid/offer submitted in accordance with R.A. 9184 and its IRR. The NFA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract on account of force majeure or any other circumstance which may render the award disadvantageous to the NFA, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

The bidding shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further information and inquiries, please contact the PBAC Chairman or Secretariat through telephone nos. (044) 600-2012/NFA-CLRO/600-2013/Fax No. (044) 600-2600.

The National Food Authority (NFA) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ANGEL G. IMPERIAL, JR.**
Chairperson, PBAC NFA-CLRO

(PIA – Nueva Ecija)

GSIS sues Metro Pacific over Meralco

By Dazon L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE System (GSIS) yesterday made good on its threat to take legal action against the Metro Pacific group led by Manuel Pangilinan, alleging that the group's flagship investment firm deliberately misled investors and defrauded them of substantial stock market gains.

In a telephone interview, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said officials of Metro Pacific Investment Corp. made a false disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, and then later amended its statement to cover up a violation.

According to Garcia, the MPIC disclosed on October 18 it acquired only 17 percent of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) from the open market. Two weeks ago, however, the MPIC revised this statement to say it had actually acquired 34.7 percent through the buyout.

Garcia said the turnaround was meant to help Metro Pacific avoid a costly tender offer for the shares of all other Meralco shareholders, after it availed an expensive deal to gain control of Meralco at P388 per share, or P22 billion, for the remaining 13.4 percent stake of the Lopez family—a premium of about 50 percent from the prevailing market price at the time.

By the rules

A spokesperson for MPIC said the company "has always endeavored to abide by the rules and standards of disclosure required by the [stock] exchange for the benefit of its investing public."

"We will issue a proper disclosure of MPIC's response as soon as we get hold of the GSIS complaint," he said.

In a tender offer, a company that is bidding to take over another company offers to buy outstanding shares of the target company at a price higher than the market price.

"We were there to make a tender offer," said the chief of the asset management fund which owns about four percent of Meralco's stock.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, a buyer is exempted from the tender offer rule if it buys a company's shares beyond the 35 percent threshold through the open market.

But GSIS lawyer Peter Ila Banzuela said that based on their investigation, MPIC had made no earlier Dec. 6 disclosure in which it said its open market purchases of Meralco shares stood at only 17 percent.

Late disclosure

Banzuela said the MPIC purchases of Meralco shares would be exempted from the tender offer rule if the 35-percent threshold is breached with shares bought from the open market.

"But we learned that the balance of 13 percent was, in fact, purchased from the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, Deegan Ltd. and Mew Gallant Ltd.—all companies related to MPIC," Banzuela said.

She said the Nov. 19 disclosure was made only after Garcia demanded they make a tender offer.

"Obviously by their own admission, they made false, misleading and fraudulent statements in their earlier disclosures meant to avoid a tender offer," she said.

The GSIS lawyer also cited an interview given by MPIC president Jose Ma. Luis to Bloomberg News on Nov. 9 in which Luis explained that the company would avoid a tender offer by divesting its transaction with the Lopez family as a two-year option for the shares in exchange for a P22 billion loan from the PLDT group, instead of an outright purchase.

Immigration confab picks Libanan chair

LIBANAN

IMMIGRATION COMmissioner Marcelino Libanan has been unanimously elected chair of the Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) during its 13th meeting hosted by the Philippines.

Director-General Dato Abdul Rahman Othman of Malaysia transferred the chairmanship of the DGICM to Libanan, and urged him to continue the DGICM's work in enhancing cooperation among its member countries on immigration matters.

"We believe that Commissioner Libanan can lead the organization into a new height so that it would actively respond to the pressing needs of its member countries in the field of trade, investment and tourism," Othman said.

Ad hoc committee

DGICM, according to the immigration bureau's press statement, is a high-level ad hoc committee that was established to study on specific concerns and solid framework for immigration cooperation in the region. This year's DGICM aims to continue efforts to address transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking and arms-ism, while promoting regional trade, investment and tourism.

In her speech marking the opening of the annual regional meeting, Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said "no amount of latest technology can cope with the demand on border protection."

"We should be open to the realization of the problems that confront us. As we seek solutions, we should also consider [each member country's] culture and beliefs. We should localize," Devanadera said.

Devanadera cited the DGICM for facilitating the sharing of information on immigration matters, which addresses the problems arising from the differences in cultures and heed settings of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Herrera, TUCP support Ople bid

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE Philippines has joined other labor groups and expressed its support for the senatorial bid of former Labor Undersecretary Susan "Toots" Ople.

In a message delivered by spokesman Alex Aguilar at the recent launching of Ople's candidacy, TUCP secretary general Ernesto "Boy" Herrera said the labor group welcomes and supports the candidacy of the youngest daughter of the late Sen. Blas F. Ople, former secretary of labor and foreign affairs.

"Every OFW owes Ka Blas a debt of gratitude for opening the doors to labor migration long before the word 'globalization' became a buzz word of our times," Herrera, himself a former secretary, said in a press statement.

"I am happy that his daughter, the one who always accompanied Ka Blas and aided him in his work and continued it long after he had passed away, is now prepared to rise in the challenge of national leadership, as a vanguard of labor and OFWs."

"Her passion for helping OFWs is something that she undoubtedly inherited from her father," Herrera said.

Overseas Filipino workers and organized labor are now mobilizing to promote the senatorial bid of Susan Ople, her supporters said.

The movement dubbed as "Make Maniago Movement" is chaired by OFW-turned-businessman Ani Aguilar, one of the founders of the Dubai-based Filipinos or FIFI (Italian OFW who resided in Saudi Arabia for several years, Aguilar said that he has been using the Internet to reach out to fellow OFWs and Filipino community leaders abroad.

ROSSERTO Madera Jr., 61, claims to have won in a presidential survey conducted by God.

SULTAN Mindanao Villalba, 58

DANIEL Magsino, 49

ROSENA becomes president, Manuel Lapid, 34, taxi driver, will file damage claims against Spain and the US for colonizing the Philippines

DAVID Almorong, 79

JOSEFINA Murillo, massage therapist

'Emperor' first to file CoC for president

By Jeannette I. Andrade
Reportage Ad

He also wants to become "emperor" of the Philippines and deliver the country out of its economic woe.

And this is just the first day.

Already, at least 14 incredibly unlikely personalities said they will run for president in the May 2010 elections while three have registered their intentions to run for senator.

Seeking the presidency is a physics instructor with a nickname that could only come from a comic book—Asuncion Silverio.

Then there's Rosalvi Lupe, a 34-year old taxi driver, who said if he becomes president, he would file damage claims against Spain and the United States for colonizing the Philippines. The money, he said, would be used to improve the Filipinos' lot.

Lozano strikes again

Oliver Lozano, a loyalist of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, convinces by filing weak complaints against powerful officials, also filed his presidential bid.

If he wins, Lozano said he would use the sequestered Marcos millions to solve the problems of unemployment, hunger and poverty within six months of his term.

To give more time for the other candidates to overcome their objection, the Comelec has reset the deadline for the filing of CoCs to from 30 to Dec. 1.

So far, those who have submitted their CoCs for president including a few who have filed for senatorial posts, lacked the criteria to be taken seriously by the Comelec and could be declared as nuisance candidates.

Overcoming the odds

They do not have the financial support and resources to launch a nationwide campaign and have no constituency to speak of. But for the aspirants, their barriers are irrelevant. They believe they can overcome the odds.

For instance, businessman Manase Sibella filed his CoC for president yesterday. Claiming to have many supporters, he believed that since his name is unique, people will vote for him.

Asked what he would do if the Comelec declares him a nuisance candidate, Sibella issued this warning: "If that happens, the earth will swallow the Philippines."

Seriously sore

Administration presidential candidate Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. accompanied by showmate Albert Gow Asey Saldevia in filing his CoC at the Comelec office in Legaspi City yesterday.

Teodoro promised to support Salvedia's programs for the benefit of Albay residents.

Salvedia, who is running under the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD, filed his CoC at 11 a.m. He was the first to file at the provincial Comelec office, according to lawyer Ramon Serrano, provincial election supervisor of Albay.

Also present in Salvedia's filing were Albay Rep. District Rep. Edcel Lagman, some mayors and board members.

Pampanga candidates

In Pampanga, Lenlen "Chito" Bacani, 68, was the first to file his CoC at the Comelec office in Sta.na.

An independent, Bacani came alone and said he was running for representative in the first district (Mabalacat, Magalang and Angeles City). He wore a white shirt with stickers announcing his anticorruption platform.

In contrast, his opponent, Aris Pilar, 38, was followed by about 50 supporters when he filed his CoC.

A Nacionalist People's Coalition (NPC) candidate, his nomination was signed by Angeles City Mayor Pascie Nepomuceno. Some of his supporters are said to be allies of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid who, during Thursday's national convention of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD, was announced as part of the administration party's senatorial slate.

Bernie Cruz, Lapid's spokesperson, declined to mention if Lapid had backed out of the gubernatorial race in Pampanga.

Ricardo Gregorio Sr., 73, an agriculturist, filed his CoC and is running for Pampanga governor. An independent, he ran and lost as mayor of Mexico in 2007.

Bagsin City hopefuls

In Bagsin City, the first five candidates to file their CoCs will run as independents.

Among them is 74-year-old Felipe Ramos, who is gunning for the city's lone congressional seat, said lawyer Elenita Tabangin, election officer for Bagsin City and Benguet.

Tabangin said Ramos once aspired to run for president, but he was declared a nuisance candidate.

Bagsin Mayor Bernardito Bautista Jr. was the first politician in the tri to CoC as Bagsin representative. He ran for mayor in 2007 under the Kilusang Mabuyong Pilipino (Kampi).

Councilor Nicanio Aligaq and Bahrdeinaeh Quilala also filed their CoCs for the same post.

Erlinda Lane, 65, filed her CoC for Bagsin mayor.

True colors

Bagsin Vice Teodoro Bugallon said many would file their CoCs from Nov. 20 to Dec. 1 as independents "so they do not reveal their political colors... Then they would declare their political parties. A provision in the election law grants candidates 15 days from filing their certificates of candidacy to change parties."

In Pangasinan, provincial election supervisor Shelly Bulaloe said only two candidates filed their CoCs on Friday. They were Bangus Mayor Dominga Chavez, who is running for representative of the first district and Abraham de Asis, a barangay captain, who is running for board member in the fourth district.

Chavez said he filed his CoC on the first day to voters would know by now serious about his political bid.

Lacks No. 8

Bulaloe said candidates usually file their CoCs on the last day, "even in the last hour."

"We also expect many candidates to file on Nov. 29 because the No. 8 is considered lucky," he said.

In Isabela, no one showed up to file their CoCs as the provincial Comelec office.

"They usually come in droves on the last day of filing. But we are always ready to receive CoCs," said provincial election assistant Marlon Salvador. With reports from Tonette Orejas in Central Luzon, Abner Kristian Enriquez, Rolando Arabit and Rhianne Ilanan in Southern Luzon

dti

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE (SRP) OF NOCHE BUENA PRODUCTS
(UPDATED AS OF 20 NOVEMBER 2009)

BRAND	UNIT	SRP
HAM		
CDO Pear Shaped Ham	800g	228.80
CDO Hamon de Bola	1kg	286.00
CDO Pista Ham	1kg	286.00
Purefoods Spiral Ham	500g	148.50
Purefoods Pear- Shaped	800g	238.00
Purefoods Jamon de Bola	1kg	286.00
Purefoods Pistak Cooked	1kg	148.50
Swift Hone Ne Buena	1kg	286.00
Swift Pear Shaped	800g	212.56
Swift Jamon de Bola	1kg	286.73
King Sue Pear-shaped cooked ham	1800g	194.90
King Sue Chinese Ham-sliced	250g	106.90
SPAGHETTI PASTA		
Knorr Regal	420g	45.00
	1kg	85.00
Ideal	400g	43.00
	1kg	82.00
Sunshine	400g	35.00
	1kg	62.50
Fiesta	400g	32.00
	1kg	68.00
Del Monte	400g	47.00
	1kg	90.00
SALAD and ELBOW MACARONI		
Knorr Regal	209g	39.00
	400g	43.00
	1kg	90.00
Sunshine	400g	31.50
	1kg	74.50
Ideal	208g	35.00
	400g	46.00
	1kg	87.00
Fiesta	400g	32.00
	1kg	77.85
Del Monte	400g	42.00
	1kg	164.00
FRUIT COCKTAIL		
Del Monte Fiesta Heavy Syrup	439g	46.25
	850g	83.00
	3062g	181.75
Dole Tropical Fruit Cocktail	439g	45.00
	836g	81.25
	1190g	115.15
Seasons Tropical Fruit Mix	439g	39.40
	836g	84.00
	3062g	145.15
Today's Mixed Fruit Stock	439g	40.50
	850g	87.40
	3062g	152.00
ALL-PURPOSE CREAM		
Nestle All-Purpose Cream	250ml	39.75
Nestle Thick Cream	380g	54.50
Alaska Crema	250ml	34.50

BRAND	UNIT	SRP
SPAGHETTI SAUCE		
Del Monte Italian and Sweet Style	250g	34.00
	560g	62.00
	940g	89.00
Del Monte Filipino Style	250g	33.50
	560g	49.50
Fiesta (Sweet Blend and Italian Blend)	150g	20.00
	500g	60.50
	850g	98.85
Hunts - (Traditional, Italian, Mushroom, Parmesan Cheese, Pesto & Cheese) (Parmesan Cheese, Pesto & Cheese)	500g	38.35
	750g	57.70
UFC Spaghetti Sauce (supermarket)	250g	21.15
(wetmarket)		22.35
(supermarket)	500g	40.35
(wetmarket)		43.00
(supermarket)	1kg	78.60
(wetmarket)		83.00
Best Food Style Spaghetti Sauce	250g	24.00
	500g	45.00
TOMATO SAUCE		
Hunts	115g	12.00
	250g	16.95
	370g	19.75
	1kg	52.25
UFC (supermarket)	115g	10.00
(wetmarket)		11.65
(supermarket)	200g	13.50
(wetmarket)		16.50
(supermarket)	1000g	57.15
(wetmarket)		60.00
Del Monte	250g	19.75
	500g	19.00
	1kg	69.00
Del Monte – Filipino Style	250g	19.00
	500g	16.50
	1kg	62.00
MAYONNAISE		
Best Food Mayonnaise	220ml	55.00
	470ml	108.75
	760ml	183.75
Best Food Mayo Magic	220ml	32.75
	470ml	81.00
	760ml	118.25
Lady's Choice	80ml	32.00
	220ml	60.00
	470ml	108.75
	760ml	183.75
CHEESE		
Magnolia Cheddar	180g	82.40
	470g	155.90
Magnolia Quickmelt	180g	84.00
	470g	157.90
QUEZO DE BOLA		
Magnolia Queso de Bola	280g	188.00
	380g	243.00
	750g	361.50

Note: SRPs apply nationwide; apply to supermarkets and wetmarkets unless specified

Retailers selling above the set SRP will be dealt with accordingly, pursuant to Republic Act 7581 or the PRICE ACT.

For inquiries and/or complaints, text Secretary Favila at 0917.8663473. Visit the nearest DTI regional and provincial offices or call:

dti direct 751.3330

Jinggoy returns to Malacañang

EIGHT YEARS AFTER HIS FATHER, FORmer President Joseph Estrada, was forced out of Malacañang, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada was back in Malacañang yesterday for the first time since that fateful day in January 2001.

Estrada was there to represent Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile in a luncheon hosted by President Macapagal-Arroyo for a visiting Chinese delegation.

The delegation was led by Jia Qinglin, who is chair of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Estrada said he exchanged pleasantries with President Arroyo.

"I almost did not recognize you," he quoted Mr Arroyo as telling him in reference to the fact that he had lost so much weight.

Estrada said he told the President that he had lost 30 pounds.

Stepping inside the Palace grounds which had been the home of his parents since his father rose to power in 1998, Estrada said the surroundings "looks very familiar" and sounded there were not much changes here.

The luncheon was held in the Ramos room, inside the main Palace building which serves as residence of Mr Arroyo.

It was Estrada who told Senate reporters that he was going to Malacañang for the first time in eight years yesterday.

He even quipped in laughter: "He hoped to be back in July when we recapture the Palace."

He Enrile is running for president next year while Estrada is seeking reelection.

Christine O. Avendaño

Retreat for widows

THE ANNUAL RETREAT FOR WIDOWS sponsored by Pieta, a spiritual organization of widows, will be held on Dec. 11, 12 and 13, 2009 at the St. Michael Retreat House in Antipolo, Rizal.

Fr. John Amora of the Sacred Heart Parish of San Antonio Village, Makati City, will be the retreat master.

For details, contact Zely Bautista at 823-3693, (09227)9238199. Closing de Jesus 531 to 67, and Ellen Hospedios 5228894.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 21, 2009
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Presentation of Mary

1st Reading: 1 Mac 1: 1-15
Gospel: Lk 20:27-40

Some Sadducees arrived. These people claim that there is no resurrection and they asked Jesus this question, "Master, in the Scripture Moses said us: 'If anyone dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife, and the child he or hers will be regarded as the child of the deceased man.' Now, there were seven brothers; the first married a wife, but he died without children; and the second and the third took the wife; in fact all seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. So the day of the resurrection, to which of them will the woman be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

And Jesus replied, "Taking husband or wife is proper to people of this world; but for those who are considered worthy of the world to come and of resurrection from the dead, there is no more marriage. Besides, they cannot die for they are like the angels. They too are sons and daughters of God because they are sons of the resurrection.

"But the dead will be raised, and even Moses implied it in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For he is God of the living not one of the dead, and for him all are alive."

Some teachers of the law then said with Jesus, "Master, you have spoken well." They didn't dare to ask him anything else.

Commentary:

The only thing, in life or in death, that will not fail us is God. The secret to death is that we are to live life as God would have us live it and then trust that that same God, who loves us in life, will take love us in death. Through the work of Christ, we shall be brought through death to a new life with God, but there's no secret, that's the gospel. And we've already been told about it.

But then, there are people who are so pained over losing a loved one that they seem to see it impossible to get in touch with them. It sounds like a good thing, at least on the surface of it. But this is still a way of avoiding death. The answer is not to avoid anything happened are found among the living, not the dead. We have to deal with the death of those we love by living a life which honors them – a life that shows where their love matters. If we are disciples in any circumstance after death, then we aren't trusting God, but trusting someone who has done nothing in our lives to earn any trust.

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Rock star welcome for Manny in Manila

Pressmen At

Ms Arroyo even expanded on Pacquiao's popular title of Pambansang Kamao (National Fist) by referring to him in a statement as the Dakilang Kamao (Great Fist) of Manila's Rizal Park as "Pinagmulang Kamao (Fist of the World)."

It was five days after Pacquiao brought the country its biggest ring glory by demolishing Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto in 12 rounds to win the World Boxing Organization welterweight title—his—for seventh world crown in seven boxing divisions.

Sharing a kiss

In their waves of cheering for Pacquiao, Filipinos put aside, at least briefly, memories of the destruction wrecked on the country by one recent back-to-back storm.

As if to squelch rumors that their marriage was in trouble, Pacquiao and Jinkee shared a kiss in front of the media after they landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Wednesday following a long trip from the United States.

In an interview over GMA-7, the champ said that everything was fine in the Pacquiao family. "Walang problema (No problem)," he said.

Jinkee said the reason she cried during a Thanksgiving Mass after Pacquiao's fight in Las Vegas was because "the homily was meaningful" and she missed their four children.

A TV footage of that Mass showed Jinkee breaking down in tears and waving away Manny when he tried to console her.

The incident followed reports that the ring icon was carrying on an affair with actress Krista Ranillo, his costar in his upcoming film "Pacquiocat." Ranillo has tried to knock down the rumors.

Fight with Mayweather

Talking with the media, Pacquiao joked about a possible fight with former pound-for-pound King Floyd Mayweather Jr. "If the time is right, the time is right, whether another long year," he said in a play on Mayweather's name.

Pacquiao said he would pursue his plan to run for Congress, either as a representative of Sarangani province or through a party-list that would push for sports development. "Yes, definitely [I'm running]," he said.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, who welcomed the Pacquiaos at the airport, said the boxer's political plans "might have a change of direction." He did not elaborate.

From the airport, the Pacquiao party drove to the New World Hotel Diamond Ballroom where Hood is staying, where they were showered with confetti, and guests dashed toward them.

Next to a billboard which iconized the neon signs in Las Vegas, nine showgirls on a stage dressed in the form of Latino songs Mendiola-style ballroom dedicated to Pacquiao.

Monique Yoli, the hotel's director of communications, said the staff had prepared Pacquiao's favorite dishes, including dangit, lechon sa bigas, beef steak, and sinigang na salmon.

Church commotion

At the historic Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo Church) in Manila, Pacquiao and Jinkee prayed together, a picture of a happy couple.

Pacquiao (especially) mesmerized and shocked Jinkee by his love when he addressed the crowd before the Mass ended.

But offering volleyness and some parishioners were riled at the commotion caused by the late arrival of the boxing hero and his companions, who included Deputy National Security Adviser Luis "Chavit" Singson, Atienza and bodyguards.

"Their arrival disrupted the flow and the solemnity of the Mass. They were complaining to us, saying 'Parehas (We) have waited for the last Mass,'" collector Florida Celestino said.

Remembering God

Still, many in the congregation took pictures of Pacquiao with their cell phone cameras even while the Mass, officiated by Fr. Abon Pullos, was going on.

"My enemy is no more above, this is for all of us," Pacquiao told the crowd in Filipino.

"My prayer comes from God and this would not have been possible without Him," he said. "I remember everything to Him and believe in Him 100 percent."

Cheering erupted as Pacquiao stepped out of church.

The motorcade for the champion started from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources compound in Quezon City around 10:30 a.m. and ended in Makati almost three hours later.

Pacquiao rode on a float decked out with Philippine flags and replicas of his two championship belts. He wore a checkered polo, his swollen right hand still wrapped in white gauze. He is protective black bandage and his injured nose right eye covered with a gauze pad.

Unlike in his previous victory parades, Jinkee rode with him in the motorcade. They were joined in the float by Atienza and other members of Team Pacquiao.

'Hail to the King'

The size of the crowds along the route was far bigger than those that cheered Pacquiao after he knocked out Britain's Ricky Hatton in a similar night.

As the caravan passed by Espana Boulevard in Manila, a group of students bowed in adulation of him. One student screamed, raising a loud paper written with the words "Hail to the King."

Traffic on many streets ground to a halt as the 40-vehicle convoy rode through. Some motorists blew their horns, others got off their cars and waved.

Despite the soaring temperature, thousands refused to budge from the sidewalks, clicking their cameras. Employees left their work in search a glimpse of Pacquiao.

"We will never get tired of waiting for him to celebrate our proud moment like this," security guard Michael Alfaro Constantino said.

Cameroon, 51, said he left his home in Marikina City before dawn hoping he could approach his idol so he would ask for financial help.

"Maybe he can share some of his winnings with flood victims like us. Most of us lost not only our homes, but our loved ones as well," he said, adding he had yet to recover the body of one of his three children who drowned in the floods triggered by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

But seeing him is enough for me to forget all my sufferings even for a moment."

Krista's name

From time to time, the motorcade was stopped by people who gathered around the float, chanting "Bulan, bulan! (Wife, Wife!)."

Instead of naming the boxing hero's girlfriend, Krista Ranillo's name.

Along Ayala Avenue in Makati, confetti rained on Pacquiao—not from the high-rise buildings but from a truck that was part of his convoy.

Serenading his woman

At a victory party in the Mall of Asia, Pacquiao and Jinkee, in a long floral dress, stalked on a red carpet up a stage, then launch locked together.

The Mall Alabang of MOA serenaded with inviting people. When Pacquiao began to sing, they jumped with joy. Most of them waved yellow, blue, and red flagbits.

"I feel more nervous singing than boxing," Pacquiao said as the crowd laughed.

He sang at least six songs, including his own "Lahing Filipino" and the song he sang for Jinkee. She celebrated.

Then the champion and his lady friend. With a report from Allison M. Lopez

MANNY! Pacquiao gives his wife Jinkee a kiss before singing for a homecoming during a welcome concert at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay on Friday.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (right) confers the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Datu, in boxing ace Manny Pacquiao (center) Friday during rites at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta, Manila. His wife Jinkee (left) straightens the honorary sash.

Pacquiao-Mayweather fight eyed at 147 lbs

NEW YORK—TOP BOXING PROmoter Bob Arum is ready to begin negotiations for a megafight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Arum, Pacquiao's promoter, said on Thursday his Filipino star was willing to fight at 147 pounds (67 kilograms).

Arum was speaking to boxing writers at the Golden Boy Promotions staff Richard Schaefer, who was acting as an intermediary between Top Rank and Mayweather Promotions, two companies with an acrimonious relationship.

Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe, left no doubt that Mayweather was ready to get in the ring with the man who many believe replaced him atop the best pound-for-pound list.

"Floyd has made it perfectly clear to Team Mayweather and the rest of the world that he wants to give the fans what they want, and that's Mayweather versus Pacquiao," Ellerbe said.

It would be the biggest event in the sport since the days of Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns, when marquee fights were held under the stars in the outdoor arenas of Caesar's Palace.

Like Super Bowl

Perhaps it's fitting that Las Vegas officials and casino magnate Steve Wynn have already rumored Arum about staging Pacquiao-Mayweather on the Strip. Any possibility would be to build a temporary, 50,000-seat outdoor arena on a vacant lot at the old Frontier, where there would be room for corporate hospitality tents and a Super Bowl-like atmosphere.

Another possibility is the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium. Team owner Jerry Jones has expressed interest in holding major events at his $1.2 billion palace.

New York Yankees chief operating officer Lonn Trost has said he'd like to see a fight at the new Yankee Stadium, across the street from the building where many of the sports' greatest battles were waged.

The problem is that New York would run a significant percentage of the revenue, especially for a fight that could generate up to $80 million in purses.

Many venues available

The notion that so many venues are vying for a fight that has yet to be made demonstrates how much so inside the sport is coveting it.

Mayweather is coming off a strong win over Montel Morgan that sold more than 1 million pay-per-views, and Pacquiao's stoppage of welterweight champion Miguel Cotto on Saturday is expected to eclipse 1.2 million.

"Not to do this fight would slow down the momentum of boxing," Arum said.

Momentum sponsors like Pepsi and Subway have shown interest in Pacquiao-Mayweather.

"It has to happen. The stars are aligned and both fighters want it," said HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg. "If it doesn't, it would be devastating to the sport."

Ad Congress told: Get inside minds of children

Front page A1

Congress (IMC) here yesterday.

Jeremy Carr, vice president of Turner Entertainment Network, that owns the Cartoon Network, said although television is still the dominant medium to reach children in the Philippines and Asia, online platforms have begun to flex their muscles for a share of the young market.

The Cartoon Network...ended its turnaround. He urges children for the "Powerpuff Girls," "Dexter's Laboratory," "Tom and Jerry," and "Ben 10"—to the finale in kid's entertainment.

"We have made connecting to kids our highest goal. We invest in proprietary research and technology to achieve that goal," Carr said.

On the third day of the 21st IMC, delegates to the largest gathering of creative minds in the local advertising industry were treated to discussions on the growing number of children online and how marketers can use traditional and digital media to reach them.

Carr said there are over 40 million Philippine households with televisions and "it will continue to grow... Audiences are spending a lot of time on other media, but a lot of their time is spent watching TV," he said.

Kids on the Net

He said, however, that there has been a surge in Internet-based consumption of content by Filipino children, a situation that is reflected across Asia.

Carr said the purchasing power of Filipino kids, which his firm's research pegged at P62 billion, has made this segment attractive to a lot of companies.

"They drive a lot of purchase decisions. Their influence is strong and understandable in their parents' spending decisions," he said.

Core audience is 10

Carr said there are now 21 million Internet users in the Philippines, with the average age between 18 and 19 years old.

"Our core audience is 10. This means the success of marketers in the near future will be based on how kids are consuming online media content," he said.

He cited a project, conducted by the Cartoon Network and research company Hexalion Thailand, that was designed to reach Filipino children.

"MP wanted to connect to schools and schoolchildren. What we did was come up with the MP Team Creator Awards in which [ten 10,] a Cartoon Network character, was used," Carr said.

The campaign tapped 781 schools and asked children to create their own ending to a story based on the "Ben 10" character, he said.

Investing in new platforms

"Online space was used as the core driver for the idea and TV as the promotional vehicle. Kids were able to develop their own ending to the story of Ben 10," which they had to do online," Carr said.

As a result of that campaign, he said at least 131,800 communities were created online by 26,000 participants. Almost 2.5 million page views were generated by Internet users from around the world.

Carr said the Cartoon Network's leadership team is investing in all platforms and technology.

"TV is great but marketers are going one step further. They are looking at make consumers online by developing games, video content and a way for children to interact. We're really growing in that space ourselves," he said.

Through a child's eyes

Andrew Kinghorn, managing director of the Marketing Store, a marketing solutions agency, said marketers should view the world "through the eyes of a child."

He cited a Nestopren study that said children in industrialized countries are still "fundamentally at the top of the family priority."

"These parents believe that kids should not be burdened by what parents have to do. The emphasis is still about happiness, enjoyment and experiencing the world," Kinghorn said.

He, however, said brands should do more to help families—mothers in particular—to make informed decisions on products.

Trade-offs

"Mothers are incredibly 'time-poor' because they still do majority of the work at home. They play many roles and are now increasingly working outside the home, which leads to a life of trade-offs," Kinghorn said.

"The principal trade-off' being made is the well-being of the family, children in particular. There is not enough done to do everything in a day," he said.

Kinghorn said this was where brands were "failing in a huge degree," citing the nutritional labeling of food products as an example.

"There is confusing more...

...tional information are there. Good brands are not doing a good job of nutritional labeling. This puts more pressure on mothers about health issues that affect their children, especially now that child obesity is the latest [it is an issue of concern]," he said.

'Mini-parents'

Kinghorn said children are also starting to become aware of what is going on around them and have become concerned with global events and issues like endangered animals and global warming.

He noted the rise of "mini-parents" or children who engage in entrepreneurial activities "because they are starting to want certain things."

"Parents are saying as firms, 'We will contribute but we want you to see the value of what you are asking...' And so ... kids are selling, trading, [becoming more] aware of the value of money," Kinghorn said.

Jinggoy backs out of NP senatorial slate

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE Jinggoy Estrada announced yesterday that he would no longer run as a guest senatorial candidate of the Nacionalista Party (NP) led by Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

Estrada said he made the decision in order to "retire all rumors and speculations" regarding his signing of Senate Resolution No. 1472, which seeks to dismiss the ethics case filed against Villar in connection with the C5 flood mitigation project.

Only two days ago, he said he had decided to withdraw his signature on the resolution that was signed by 11 other senators.

Speaking yesterday in a news conference, Estrada said reports were circulating that he had received P10 million and a slot in the NP senatorial slate in exchange for his signature.

"There is no truth in all of these. I'm here to convey to the NP that I am declining my offer because my credibility is at stake," he said.

He also reminded reporters that he belongs to the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, the party of his father, deposed President Joseph Estrada, who is again running for president in 2010.

On good terms

Estrada said he met Villar a few times on Thursday bringing his decision. But he stressed that he was not severing ties with the latter.

"We are still on good terms ... I respect him as one of my colleagues here in the Senate. I still refer him as a dear friend," he said of Villar.

He added that he had been offered another guest slot by another party but that he was no longer entertaining such offers.

In his letter, Estrada reiterated his displeasure over the filing of the resolution ahead of the release of the report by the Senate committee of the whole, which investigated Villar on the C5 flood controversy.

"I was surprised and frankly disgusted by the news that the resolution was suddenly filed last Nov. 18. This, to my mind, was a serious breach of the agreement regarding the proper time when the resolution should be filed and made public," Estrada said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the committee chair, viewed the resolution as an "affront" to his leadership and was reported to have considered resigning from the chamber's top post.

'Political intrigue'

Estrada also told Villar that his signing of the resolution had resulted in "further unnecessary provisions and political intrigues—that President Estrada is not sure about running for president in 2010 and that he may withdraw from the race; or that I am sending a shot to the NP that becomes I myself have doubts that my father might be disqualified from running for president."

To reporters, he stressed that his father was running for president.

Estrada's statement was backed by former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, an ally of his father's who joined him at the news conference.

According to Maceda, Estrada's earlier acceptance of the NP offer was misinterpreted or was purposely given to split the defenders of the accused Presidents.

Maceda said the ex-President would file his certificate of candidacy on Nov. 27 and had formed a legal panel led by former Supreme Court Justice Marcelo Fernan.

He also said that meeting yesterday and next week, "is packed up to [cop out]" would be aired in "all the leading TV programs."

Campaign HQ

Maceda also said that ex-Pres. Joseph Estrada's campaign headquarters in No. 409 Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

BACK IN THE PALACE Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, son of the ousted President, joins host in Malacañang again for a luncheon meeting toured by President Macapagal-Arroyo for Ju Jingtao, chair of the People's Political Consultative Conference of China. MALACAÑANG

He said the rankers had accepted that the "propaganda" against the ex-President was "part of the reason why maddening his ratings in the Pulse Asia survey are not so good."

The elder Estrada landed fourth in the latest Pulse Asia survey. He garnered 13 percent, with the front runner, Sen. Benigno Aquino III, drawing 44 percent.

Villar's NP, Marcos KBL forge alliance

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two parties for the 2010 polls.

At the signing, Marcos illustrated the move in contrast with Villar, who is engaged in talks with Ocampo and Miriam as part of his drive to "unite forces against poverty."

Asked how he could run with Ocampo, Marcos said: "Because we are not for hire. If we were the ones, then we would be no different today. But the issues now are poverty, unemployment, health care, human rights violations."

Contacted for comment by phone, Ocampo appeared surprised.

He said Villar did not inform him beforehand of Marcos' intention to the NP senatorial slate, and that he would have to study the terms of the NP-KBL alliance.

"We have laid down clearly with MV [Manny Villar] any unthinking issues with the Marcoses—compensation for human rights victims and recovery of ill-gotten wealth—on which we cannot compromise," Ocampo said, adding:

"Should the NP-KBL alliance compromise our stand, we'll review our impending support for MV."

Despite differences

Marcos welcomed the progress of working with activists like Ocampo, who was imprisoned in 1972, the onset of martial law, but escaped two years later and went underground.

"Despite what differences we may have and other things, the main issues we agree on [are] what's important," Marcos said.

He pointed out that the NP senatorial slate was composed of representatives of various political groups and sectors in society and said he did not expect Ocampo or Mitra to agree with him on every issue.

Marcos, who was accompanied by his elder sister, former Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, said he was bringing to the NP the "bold North" composed of provinces in northern Luzon.

"There is a solid north...and they are all here!" he said, drawing cheers and applause from his red-clad supporters.

All hands on deck

Marcos also said the KBL would back Villar, his running mate Sen. Loren Legarda, and "all those belonging in the senatorial line-up."

Defending the recruitment of Marcos, Villar said the fight to defeat poverty needed all hands on deck, including even former rivals and personalities with divergent political persuasions.

"We in the Nacionalista Party believe in democracy," he said. "What we are fighting for the battle against poverty. If, at the outset, we are already fighting each other, we will not succeed in fighting poverty."

Answering questions from reporters, Villar said he had cleared the matter first with three senatorial, including members of progressive groups endorsing with the NP.

"I will just allow them to declare their positions, so I'm asking that we don't have a final slate yet. They are all my friends," he said.

Besides Marcos and the cabinet lawmakers, the NP is also reportedly talking with detained Col. Ariel Querubin.

Stumbling block

The NP will announce its complete senatorial slate in a ceremonial convention to be held on Nov. 29. Villar plans to file his certificate of candidacy on Dec. 1, the last filing day.

Ocampo said the Left's newly formed Makabayan coalition would seek an audience with Villar to discuss the NP-KBL alliance.

He said it was important that Villar lay down the terms of the alliance because it could "compromise" Makabayan's stand on issues concerning the late dictator's family.

"We cannot compromise on these issues," Ocampo reiterated.

But he added: "Although a stumbling block, the KBL-Villar alliance with the NP will not be the decisive factor in Makabayan's final decision on whether or not to support Villar.

"We can run as joint candidates of the left but not under the NP-KBL alliance."

Propose platform

Later in a text message, Ocampo said Makabayan could just choose to "work only with the presidential candidate on the basis of the agreed platform and issues."

In a speech titled "Beyond What Divides Us, Towards A United Front against Poverty," Villar said he forged the alliance with the KBL because of its pro-poor platform that jibed with the NP's platform of governance, particularly in jointly addressing the "plague of poverty."

He pointed out that as of September, more than 9 million Filipinos had experienced hunger in the last couple of months.

Said Villar: "The Bacolandia story believes that this is the single most defining issue of the 2010 election—the fight against poverty."

"I am sure that some will focus on the fact that [Marcos] is the son of the former President. This is not the reason why I decide he is qualified.

"I am sure that some will try to smear our nation's political past that has divided the country. I will not do that. I'd rather look at his qualifications as a public servant.

"As a leader, I am not in the habit of surrounding myself with those who will simply back up and say yes to my every word. I believe that differences in opinion contribute to sound policy.

"We can disagree, for as long as we are united in a common vision of providing our people with food on their table, jobs that will give them decent lives, and education for their children's future."

Marcos said he shared the NP's core advocacy against poverty, and added that the poor must be empowered in all aspects as a top priority.

Villar template

He noted that Villar's own rags-to-riches story could be a template to uplift the condition of the nation's poor.

He also said the NP-KBL alliance was anchored on trust and confidence in Villar's integrity and leadership buttressed from the latter's perseverance against poverty.

Asked why he did not choose to align with the Liberal Party (LP), Marcos said: "We believe that the LP is not the party to bring solution to the problems that our country faces. And as this is simply on the basis of sales we believe will bring prosperity back to our country."

But he added that his alliance with the NP did not signify that he was closing the door on reconciliation with the family of Sen. Benigno Aquino III, the LP standard-bearer and the son and namesake of the late dictator's most-vocal nemesis.

"Certainly, there is an unspecified [path] in the other. This is a political decision that we have made in position ourselves with who we believe [is] the best choice for the upcoming elections," Marcos said. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LP not letting Recto go even as it tries to win back Serge O

Front page A1

[Chavelita's] decision," he concluded.

Never say 'never'

Duterte himself said he was going—but not yet.

"I am leaving," he said on the phone. "Nothing has been done to make me change my mind on he."

But when asked about the chances of his staying to the LP, Oreta's said: "It's hard for me to say [because I] never say 'never.' I would say I'm not."

Abad said he and other LP members got to see Duterte on Thursday night, at a party fundraising event where the latter's wife was a "guest-mentor."

But Abad said he only got to exchange pleasantries with Duterte. He also expressed doubt that the latter was able to speak with the LP leadership, including Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

On Thursday, Duterte confirmed that he left the party because he did not want Recto in the LP lineup.

He said the latter, who headed the National Economic and Development Authority, did nothing to oppose the elements gunning for President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

Duterte said he saw "fed up with the outside fighting, with the Media" in the LP.

He also cited double-cross, saying party officials had kept him "in the dark" about their decision to include Recto in the senatorial slate despite his having expressed his objections.

'Certain delusion'

Commenting on Chavelita's remarks, Abad said: "We understand the deep sentiments about his relatedness."

Abad also said the decision to entertain Recto and Santos was a result of party deliberations.

He said party officials considered, among others, the fact that Batangas was a "big" and "important" province, and that it was the only province in the Southern Tagalog region where the LP had not yet been "tested."

As for the infighting, Abad said there never "ever was deliberate within the party."

He said there were "doubts" and "suspicions," adding that Aquino said this running mate, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas, had chosen not only Mendiola but also members of civil society and party-list groups.

After all, he said, "you want to winner support."

But as a result, the broad political forces within the party "produce chaos" over which "not all is not in agreement," Abad said.

'Valuable asset'

This is why the party tries to make a "delicate balancing act," he said, adding:

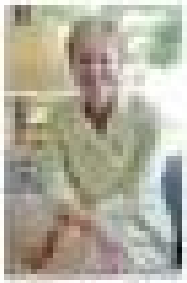
"It's a healthy debate. It's important to have the element of dreaming and winning."

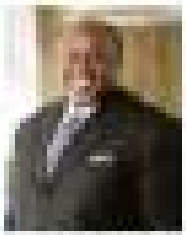
LIBERAL Party 2010 campaign manager Florencio "Butch" Abad (left) congratulates a guests with LP vice presidential candidate Mar Roxas (second from right) during a fund-raising dinner at the NBC Tent, Global City in Taguig, on Wednesday. STORY ON P1

Abad also said the effect of Duterte's departure, Abad said the former senator was a "valuable asset" and a "veteran political operator [who] knows [which] "not all is not in agreement," Abad said.

Asked about

New US envoy to RP named





Ebarle slay suspect tied to earlier road killing

DESIGNER BAGS

CONFIDENCE FOR THE TAKING

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OPINION

Deadweight

EDITORIAL

FOR SHEER SIZE AND RESOURCES, NO PARTY comes even close to the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD. As President Macapagal-Arroyo told party leaders during its convention Thursday, three out of every four elected officials belong to the party. Add to that the vast resources it can tap as the party in control; not only of Malacañang but also of the majority of provinces, cities and towns. And in Gilbert Teodoro, it has a presidential candidate who can hold his own against any of his rivals when it comes to intelligence, superior, not inarticulate and vision. That looks like a powerful combination that would ensure victory in any election. So why does the administration party appear headed for defeat in the May 2010 elections?

The signs are ominous. In the last three surveys conducted by the country's more reputable pollsters, Teodoro has been languishing in the bottom, way below the other serious contenders: Sen. Benigno Aquino III, Sen. Manuel Villar and former President Joseph Estrada. Could it be that the bright Teodoro misunderstood badly floundering on board a sinking ship that was already being abandoned by more savvy politicians and plain opportunists?

Problems have been hounding the administration party from the time it started the process of selecting its national candidates. While Regent Fernando was offering himself as a presidential candidate, party leaders apparently believed he did not have what it took to win the biggest prize. Instead they decided to import Teodoro from the Nationalist People's Coalition. Finding a running mate for Teodoro proved just as difficult, with one potential candidate after the other turning down the offer, until Eduardo Manzano came along—and he looks like a poor choice, suffering in comparison with his rivals as well as Teodoro himself. Now the party is hunting a hard-nose parting together a complete senatorial ticket, and some party leaders are saying they might have only six senatorial candidates hammered by two actors who have very little to show after six years in the Senate. (It seems that party stalwarts have taken to heart the lessons learned from the beating suffered by its senatorial ticket in 2007.)

In the meantime, several bigwigs have ditched the administration party and joined either the Liberal Party or the Nacionalista Party, like Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto.

It seems that everyone, including the leaders of the administration party, is aware that a big political machinery and command of state resources cannot guarantee victory for Lakas-Kampi-CMD. Nor when the party is laboring under a very unpopular leader it had ruthlessly supported in the face of serious charges of stealing the presidency and graft and corruption. With her abysmal public approval rating, the President has become a deadweight that threatens to sink her own party's chances of staying in power for six more years.

That above-mute a president's "assistance" was eagerly sought by politicians, now her own party's candidates are trying to put as much distance between President Arroyo and themselves. Teodoro would drop this, of course, but Manzano came close to admitting as much when he told Tina Monzon-Palma in an interview on ABC that a vote for their team was not a vote for the administration but "a vote for Gibo."

Even the President appears to be aware that she has become a liability. At the party convention, she urged her party mates to work for the election of Teodoro and Manzano, but did not raise their hands as tradition dictated. Not only that, the real rulers party old guards who quashed their positions to a younger generation of leaders, led by Teodoro. She told them to "transform Lakas-Kampi-CMD from the party of the present to become the party of the future."

Lakas-Kampi-CMD, however, needs to win the present battle for the presidency or it risks becoming a party of the past, not the future. And this early it looks like an uphill battle for the hamstringing galeot, weighed down by the sins of its leaders. The makeover in leadership may not be enough to convince Filipinos that it is the right party to make the kind of changes they have long wanted to see in our political life.

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Politics is not all addition

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THERE IS A FEW IS POLITICS THAT IS VERY popular among Filipino politicians. It is sustained up by the oft-repeated line oft-heard in the late Sen. Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez: "Politics is addition." This belief has been made to rationalize all the opportunism, the horse-trading, and the pathos party-switching that we find in our electoral campaigns.

This notion is true in one sense, but false in another. Inside of politics involves the opposition of interests, politics is indeed addition. For a political group that adds without diminution eventually undermines itself. The very conditions that made it possible and gave it its identity are bound to be eroded when it can no longer distinguish itself from its environment. Addition therefore makes for politics only to the extent that it proceeds from a sharp differentiation between what it includes and what it excludes.

Politics that merely adds and does not divide is not politics at all—at least not in the modern sense of the word. The line that separates the opposition from the administration would get blurred with every indiscriminate addition. Politics would remain a mere extension of the more developed institutional spheres of social life—like religion, the economy, the mass media, or the family. It would fail to evolve into an autonomous function in society.

Ideally, politics operates on the basis of a distinction—a dimension between what one opposes and what one advocates. Where these are left undefined, politics becomes nothing more than a battle of personalities that grow their primary identities from the other functional systems of society. The mode of governance that results from this type of politics will tend to be opportunistic rather than programdriven, transactional rather than transformative.

That Filipino politicians are allowed to switch parties with ease only perpetuates the shallowness of our political life. The habit robs the environment of limits into the LP senatorial slate: "does not fit the image of what we want Sen. Noynoy Aquino (the standard-bearer) to project to the nation; to choose goodwill in bringing about new politics and decency in government." He has a point. New politics and integrity in public service are indeed the standards by which the Noynoy-Mar team seeks to distinguish itself from the rest of the candidates for president and vice president. A solid line will immediately be applied to the LP's team chosen, particularly at the national level.

In the 1987 senatorial election, following the ratification of the new Constitution, President Cory Aquino lent to her 24 handpicked senatorial candidates the usages of her Marian charisma. Many of them were fresh faces drawn from the battles against the Marcos dictatorship. Only two failed to make it. The recent surveys have shown the enduring power of the late president's legacy of decency in public office. They indicate that the public believes Noynoy to be the principal legatee of this gift. Yet, it is amazing to see how Noynoy's party seems bent on squandering this inheritance by using it to lure the support of traditional politicians, rather than to engage and organize the scattered forces of reform into a viable constituency.

The latter, of course, is the more difficult road to take. It is filled with uncertainty, and it could end in defeat. But the journey it presents, or cannot be other than paradigm-changing, regardless of how it ends. In contrast, the-coalition-of-the-willing model, which has been the mainstay of its success, contributes from the start the very essence of what this journey is supposed to be about—the quest for genuine change. Noynoy finds himself at a crossroads: does he seem badly to be president, or does he want to be a president who can catalyze change?

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Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The ship is sinking, why?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH FURTHER THE Philippines has to sink before Filipinos of goodwill realize that we've got to plug the holes in the ship and start rowing like mad for terra firma. Or sink with it and say, "Hey, we're not like *rats* and abandon ship. We are interested for our policies, but doing nothing about the situation is not an option.

We are witness to a Supreme Court where eight justices—a majority (who are nameless, unfortunately)—have voted against the resolution as worthy to become a member of the highest court of the land, even though her competence and integrity are under a very large cloud of doubt. How does this choice affect on their own competence and integrity? Are they thinking of what is best for the country or what is best for themselves? Because if they are saying that Devanadera is the best of a bad lot, one is ready to supply any number of names—Dovie Bermanzo-Ong and Josefina Santiago among them—who have proven competence and integrity.

We are witness to a Senate where 12 members—a majority (who are at least short-listed)—have signed a resolution thwarting Sen. Manny Villar from their joining unofficial brotherhood (at the very least), without making for the evidence to be weighed and evaluated, and ignoring rules of procedures if not of secrecy. Their haste in hopping to their resolution that Villar is clean brings a kangaroo to mind. That Senator Villar is one of the 12 signatories does not speak well of his sense of delicadeza. That Senator Estrada has announced that he is withdrawing his signature doesn't really help either, even if that means there is no longer a majority because it merely underlines the fact that a decision was made prematurely.

He says he read all the testimonial and documentary evidence? Then, Where did he have the time? And with whose legal help? Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the Committee of the Whole, whose neutrality in this issue is unquestioned, is still calling all that evidence, and he is a lawyer par excellence.

Also, Peter Cayetano claims that the charges were brought against Villar for political reasons. That may well be. But that doesn't mean that corruption was not also involved. As a Filipino, I would like to be convinced that he isn't being cleared for political reasons also. And this is why I would like him to see what the committee report being prepared by Enrile has to say after going through the evidence.

We are witness to politicians changing parties the way they would play musical chairs. In the case of those who have benefited from being administration stalwarts, it smacks of political opportunism, wouldn't you say? And what does that make of the parties that welcome these opportunists—and military coup attempters—with open arms? Political realism or outright hardball, you tell me. Or where are the new politics, the white knights who will finally change, cleanse and reform our society? Does anyone remember when politicians changing parties were so rare that it was considered news? And when the term "political butterfly" was a derogatory?

What do the above situations have in common? Answer: People whose concern for the welfare of the country is far below their concern for their own private interests. It is just such attitudes and behavior that have brought the country to its knees—pardon the metaphor duh!

We have only to see that the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), a US foreign aid agency, classified us as a low-income country in 2006, in the same category as Afghanistan, Chad, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of the Congo, Laos and Yemen, for heaven's sake. I realize that the definitions for these income categories may change, but as far back as I can remember—at least since 1965—the Philippines was always classified as a lower-middle-income country. To be considered low-income should be an indictment of our performance and a source of shame.

Ironically, and more shamefully, in spite of the fact that we were classified as "low income," we still couldn't qualify to be a "compact" country (i.e., eligible for five-year grants) because our performance in the areas of Ruling Justly, Investing in People, and Encouraging Economic Freedom was below the median or at least half of the indicators in three of these categories. We also could not qualify because our performance in the Control of Corruption, which was a necessary condition for eligibility was below the median.

Now, however, we have been told that the Philippine government actually scores very that the country can no longer be classified as a low-income country so that it can deal with low-income qualifications.

And worst of all, we seem content that we are doing not get sick from the MCC report. That only we are performing so poorly in the first places in the Ruling Justly category, are indisputably in the control of corruption and the rule of law (the median for both these indicators, by the way, is the same whether a country is low income or low-middle income) and indeed, according to People Power, we had in four of the five indicators (including girls' primary education, completion rate and immunization rate).

So why did we perform so poorly? It should be obvious. Inertia on compliance is among "because our leaders, for all branches of government, put their welfare above that of the country and because we, the people, allow them to.

Business groups work for RH compromise

THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS GROUPS SHOWED THEIR recognition of and desire to help solve the national population problem when key members of the Makati Business-Industry conference for Human Development (BIC), the Makati Business Club (MBC) and the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) publicly pledged to work together to prepare a compromise bill on reproductive health (RH).

The pledge was made by BIC national co-chairman Vicente T. Paterno, MBC chairman Roman R. del Rosario, and MAP national treasurer-consultant Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II at the end of a BIC-MBC-MAP forum, "Responsive on the Reproductive Health Bill," held in the ADB Conference Center in Makati last Wednesday. (As co-chairman of the BIC's program committee, I was the emcee. I invite this summary on my own account, not as formal rapporteur; errors are mine, and omissions are due to lack of space. More information on the forum can be requested from BIC executive director Bella Bolaan (bbolo_phil@yahoo.com and mbolaan@yahoo.com), vice-president for proceedings.

The forum's program intentionally excluded legislators from the House of the RH bill, and instead sought views from business, the clergy and civil society. All the main speakers are serious practicing Catholics. The first was former health secretary Juan Gultiez, a product of San Beda College and the UP College of Medicine, who has spent years working with the poor. He thought he and his wife are natural family planning (NFP) practitioners, he knows the RH bill because of the post-bed NFP too impractical. Lacking the means as result of the family planning methods practice they most prefer, they experience unwanted pregnancies very often, and as a result, thousands of them seek and undergo illegal abortions.

If passed, the RH bill would mandate available to government hospitals of rural Ilocos, vasectomy and IUD insertion, and classify hormonal contraceptives as abortifacients. And to do so, as social medicine to be stocked by government hospitals and health units. It prohibits public officials—here Dr. Tan referred to a former mayor of Manila—from exercising the delivery of family planning services. It mandates age-appropriate RH education starting from Grade 5 to 4th year high school.

The second speaker was lawyer Ricardo J. Romulo, educated by the Christian Brothers, a doctor of laws from Harvard, and a thought of the Social Order of St. Gregory. His speech, "H.B. No. 5043 Threatens Our Happy Days," agrees that the RH bill's call for effective measures of population management, but disagrees on grounds involving freedom of religion, that it is essential to criminalize acts and conduct that involve sometimes a mere of morality and conscience. He recommends deleting the bill's Sec. 17, which states employers are obligated to provide free RH services to employees, and its Sec. 21, which bars prohibited acts that may be penalized (in Sec. 22) by one to six months imprisonment and/or a fine of P10,000 to P50,000. (Later in the open forum, I clarified that penal provisions were not covered by the DOH pulls stand as showing popular support for it.)

The third speaker was Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J., S.T.L., with basic education at the Ateneo de Manila, a master's from CSP and a doctorate in development from the University of Wisconsin, by BIC national co-chairman, he was responsible, with Ting Paterno, for initiating the forum in the first place. His paper, "Pastoral Guidelines and Core Values in RH Proposition," says that a governing maxim of our era (a) must not practice family planning, (b) pass the DOH if adequately informed about it, and (c) want to choose among RH methods according to their own circumstances (he recommends the Standard Days Method, which requires avoiding sex on days 8 to 19 of the menstrual cycle). While being quite clear that DOH methods are the only ones allowed by the Catholic Church, Archbishop Ledesma did not condemn even the RH bill enough to say that NFP methods should always be included in the government's population information program.

The fourth speaker was lawyer Jo M. Imbong, who represented Archbishop Fernando Antonio, D.D., head of the Episcopal Commission on Family. Practically, she is executive secretary of the CBCP legal office and counsel-at-law of the University of Asia and the Pacific. Although educated exclusively in public schools, up to her law degree from UP, she is usually opposed to the RH bill. She denies the existence of a population problem. In short, her talk, "Agenda," focuses on the coercive and repressive powers like "population and development" and "informed choice" in a Nicaragua confidential document called Demand Driven by Study Memorandum 200 (NSSM200), declassified a few years ago, which sees overpopulation in developing countries as a threat to the world security. "No country has reduced its population growth without resorting to abortion," to her speaking gun quote from NSSM200. She depicted the RH bill as part of an imperialistic agenda of the US, the UNFPA and other family planning advocates.

The main questions were followed by remarks from a sponsors' panel. BBC's Roberto de Ocampo was against the RH bill because, in his opinion, the government can accomplish the bill's objectives even without it. Both MAP's Peter Wallace and BIC's Ting Paterno saw the population problem as so urgent that the business sector should help to find its solution. And that, at the end of all comments from the floor, finally led to the pledge to work for a compromise.

* * *

Contact: DBG, news-ans.org.ph or mailto:mail.com.ph/twitter.org.ph.

True book havens

COMMENTARY

Nevi Ile Romana Cruz

THAT WAS THE IDEA OF A LIBRARY BUS WHEN IT was first conceptualized in 2003 by former Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, a dad seeing like a great but wild idea that would lead nowhere. The concept seemed too good to be true, too idealistic to fly; for it had no budget to give it wings. It appeared like an outrageous scrap paper request to immediately address the lack of libraries in public schools in the country. Rather than striving to do the impossible task of equipping every public school with a library, it called for a warehouse and wholesale type of library that would service not just one school but the entire division, under the auspices of the Department of Education. The 8-hour chronicle would not be the individual student directly but a school-designated teacher who would borrow on a "wholesale" basis—40 books—for the school else represents. The innovative idea would truly maximize the available resources, generally limited, for our large student population in 17 regions and 30,000-plus elementary schools.

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All about hope

BUSINESS MATTERS

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

WHEN ASKED IF I HAVE MADE MY CHOICE FOR 2010, I answer without hesitation that I certainly have, and of course it is Noynoy Aquino. How soon to agree with me, and do not question my preference.

At a social gathering a few weeks ago, I was rather surprised when a good friend openly said he was going to vote for Gilbert Teodoro. Why Noynoy was the right choice, "What, you are not for Noynoy?" asked one in the group. "Who are you for?" My friend quickly clarified that he did not say he was not for Noynoy, only that he was not yet convinced. He had not made up his mind.

His concern, he said, is the lack of concrete accomplishments that can back up Noynoy's candidacy.

For my friend's benefit and whoever else may be interested, allow me to share with you the considerations that have led me to my choice.

I began with a simple assessment of where our country is and where I would like it to go. My personal view is straightforward: I am sick and tired of a president who has developed and mastered the science of doing what I deem please and getting away with it. I refuse to accept the view that we are a hopelessly corrupt country. I insist that we do not deserve to be perennially singled out as an extremely corrupt nation that is getting even more corrupt.

We must reject and resolutely fight corruption because it is a social evil that contributes greatly to poverty. Corruption is unacceptable also because it diverts already meager resources from development and social programs that ought to benefit the poor, but also because it discourages investments that create jobs. If we are to redress poverty and improve the lives of our countrymen, we must fight corruption. And to do this, we must have leadership that is honest. Leadership that are not tainted.

This is why the first qualities I seek from our next president are the credibility and moral authority to lead our country back to the path of a just society, where notions of right and wrong matter, where corruption is vigorously rejected, where crime does not pay.

Do I hear Noynoy's candidacy in Joseph Estrada? In Manny Villar? In Gilbert Teodoro? Or in Noynoy? Each can make his own choice. I choose Noynoy.

I see Noynoy as a man of principle with solid moral foundations. In his years of public service, he has consistently conducted himself with dignity and integrity. He lives a simple lifestyle. He manifests no lust for the trappings of wealth or power. He is not tainted by corruption. And, of course, he carries the almost unimaginable legacy of a mother and a father who are both martyrs for democracy. Whose lives were marked by extraordinary patriotism, unquestioned integrity and a passionate love for their fellow men. Noynoy's character, I believe, like that of his sister, has been molded by the lives he parents lived and the examples they set, and he and his sister have given strength to each other and to anyone from that exemplify the values these parents instilled: love of God, country and their fellow men.

Honesty. Love of God and country. Skill, grounded moral principles. These are the basic requisites that I believe would in fact lead to lead our country's fight against corruption in a way of life. Are these enough of an attached? Can he provide the leadership that this great battle between good and evil will demand?

Fortunately, the answer is readily evident. Recall how the 2010 presidential election was looking before August. No candidate enjoyed clear excitement. No one rated above the mid-20s in the surveys. Citizens groups were loud just to mobilize and generate any enthusiasm. And then came the passing of our beloved President Cory Aquino. Suddenly, Noynoy by the massive outpouring of love by a grateful Filipino nation at her wake and funeral, and then the very timely and selfless act of this Senate reform, my Noynoy's candidacy—and the entire game changed overnight.

Noynoy had probably in the first to admit that it is neither his wealth nor his personality nor his legislative record that is creating all the excitement. It is what he stands for. It is about hope. Hope for a government that will severely fight corruption. Hope for a government that will wage cost-effective battle against poverty through rapidly improved education and health care. Hope for a credible, righteous and effective leadership that will restore our country's reputation and standing in the community of nations. Hope for a leadership that will help us regain our self-respect and pride as a people. Hope for a Filipino. Hope for a better life and a brighter future for ourselves and our children.

Only Noynoy is providing the inspirational leadership that is re-igniting all these hopes. That is why citizens' groups of all ages and persuasions are coming up in support of his candidacy. That is why outstanding academics and professionals have volunteered their services as his council of advisers in helping consolidate his platform of government. That is why he is the runaway choice in one national survey after another.

Because Noynoy gives us hope.

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. is the chairman of the Makati Business Club. Email: rrdelrosario@hotmail.com

Freshie diary

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN FIVE YEARS SINCE I FIRST stepped inside the UP system. To be honest, the details and feelings of those days have already faded, but I think the lessons and experiences I had back then were among the things that saw me through my college life.

I spent my freshman year (against my father's will) in UP Diliman. This was partly due to my capability and my pride. I did not want to go to [illegible] UP Los Baños because ever since I came into the world, I was already in Los Baños. I wanted to experience a new atmosphere and I was always sure that I could handle myself alone.

Such then, the thought of living away from home seemed to be so pleasant and exciting. It was my chance to prove to the world that I was a big girl. However, one of the first things I learned right after my parents left me in the dormitory was that I was not.

I remember crying myself to sleep on my first night because everything landed on dampening the days, the big campus, the people, the city—everything. The libraries, my friends, my family. I did not know how to handle everything. But by then I had no other choice but to suffer the consequences of my decision. I knew that if I wanted to finish college I had to wipe my tears away and get up the next morning and get used to those weird feelings in the following mornings of my college life.

Lesson No. 1: I was not yet a big girl after all.

That night, I found out that crying was an effective way of getting myself to sleep. But when I woke up the next morning, I quickly realized that breakfast was not going to be served to me anymore. I had to go to the cafeteria, line up until people I did not know, and eat breakfast.

I figured out pretty soon that I also had to be responsible for everything. There was no mom there to nag me to study and no sister I could count on whenever I did something wrong.

Lesson No. 2: I was now on my own.

One might be tempted to say, "Finally!" but I realized that the nagging and the scolding made their purposes after all. It struck me to rather quickly that I missed the everyday brouhaha of my parents' voices. Silence was everything. I was so finally missing the things I despised, and I realized that the things I thought to be unnecessary were necessities after all. Dawning, though it may be, I had to learn to survive by myself.

Lesson No. 3: I needed to survive.

It was scary to go to class on the first day, because I did not know how to get to places in the first place. It was scary to go to the grocery because I did not know where it was. It was scary to ask somebody, because I did not know who he or she was. It was scary to do everything except stay inside my room or go home. But I knew that holding everything around was the only way I was going to survive. To survive I had to look beyond the scary world, see it in a different light and take little steps to move on it because eventually little steps would teach me to make big ones.

The next question for me was how a girl would be able to survive college, considering that she had just realized she was alone and that she was not really the big girl she thought she was. I realized that I should not do it alone.

Lesson No. 4: Make friends.

It was necessary for me to make friends. It would not be truthful to say that I survived on my own.

However, there was still this hole that neither friendship nor academics accomplishments could fill. Actually, the four lessons I mentioned earlier would have been enough to survive through the first parts of my freshman year. But, lesson No. 5 made it more complete. I learned that I needed God and knowing Him better made my freshman year complete.

When I was still in high school, I thought He was just a necessary obligation. It was during my freshman year that I came to know Him as a friend. It was then that strength was born through the hardships. And He was—and He is—more than enough to fill every feeling of emptiness inside my heart.

I have had memories of my freshman year. Given the chance, I would not hesitate to go back in time and re-visit the feelings I had, the people I met and the places I saw there. Looking back, I realized that those hardships I went through were only meant to be re-counting and thrilling as compared to the sensation things that sort of consumed me when I became older. The fresh ones I had of everything back then was beautiful, as compared to the issues/questions I developed later. Being new to everything there was scary because being new actually means not knowing what to do and not knowing what is happening.

I have paid my dues in college and I have experienced a lot of new things other than being a freshman. I must say that now more is actually where one learns more than what one expects. Now that I am about to graduate after five and a half years of bittersweet labor, I am looking forward to being a freshman again—this time in the workplace. I am looking forward to experiencing a new high.

Arbena F. Laroya, 22, is a mechanical engineering major at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school; courses and your yearly contribution, if employed; the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

YOUNG BLOOD

Athena P. Laroya

We went to Anne what she young thoughts during school. What are your thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below —Ed.

THEY SAID

Changing parties

"Those who say I compromise for us to change parties at this time, but commitment, loyalty, solidarity stay here for me. It's character development. If you are a politician changing parties frequently, can you depend on him?"

—Senator Roger to Senator Jinggoy Estrada (...on his defection of a possible Estrada ally to another party)

Too early

"There is a saying that when you push so early, then there's no way [to go] but down. I think we are unanimous enough now to see that there will still be many developments up to the time of the elections."

—Association Secretary Eduardo Ermita, on public support for Ang Kasangga Noynoy—Aquino III

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Happy and sad with NBN findings

FIRST OF ALL, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO DESERVES to be congratulated for her decision to withhold her signature from the contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project with ZTE Corp. of China. Her decision was based on the findings of the Senate committee on national defense and security, chaired by Senator Gregorio Honasan II, that the NBN project was fraught with serious anomalies in its implementation.

Mrs. Arroyo's decision is a welcome development for the country. The NBN project is a very important project that will provide the Philippines with a modern and world-class telecommunications infrastructure. It will bring the Philippines into the 21st century and will enable the country to compete with its neighbors in the global economy.

However, the decision is also a sad one. It is sad that the project has been delayed for so long. It is sad that the project has been subjected to so much controversy. It is sad that the project has been subjected to so much criticism.

It is sad that the project has been subjected to so much criticism because it is a project that is very important to the country. It is a project that will benefit the country for many years to come. It is a project that will help the country to develop its economy and to improve the lives of its people

Across the NATION

Bill to 'chop-chop' Hundred Islands hit

ALAMINOS CITY—ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES in Pangasinan are opposing a bill in the House of Representatives that would split and reclassify the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) here, saying the move is "a grave threat to the country's ecotouristic and an assault to our cultural heritage."

Authored by Pangasinan Rep. Arthur Celeste, House Bill No. 4909 proposes to divide and declare one of the biggest islands within the HINP "as alienable and disposable and allow it to be used for residential, commercial and industrial purposes.

Once approved, the bill will supersede the 69-year-old Presidential Proclamation No. 867, which designates the HINP as a reservation site and makes it a protected area.

"The Hundred Islands was declared as a reservation for a reason. It is a wildlife sanctuary and breeding ground for a variety of marine species," said Jonathan Ronquillo, environment campaigner of the La Liga Policy Initiative (LLPI), in a statement.

The LLPI, according to its website (www.ligapolitikal.org), has been providing technical support to the Aluminos City government.

Mayor Hernani Braganza commissioned LLPI to help form economic partnership alliances between local governments in the first district of Pangasinan and possible technical assistance to develop strategic local economic development plans.

Ronquillo said the Hundred Islands spawn ecotourism that benefits not only the local government and communities near it but also local and foreign tourists who are able to enjoy the islands' white beaches, dive spots and caves.

The decision ruled in favor of Celeste on Friday for nonresponse but did not answer calls and text messages.

Governor Davis, DENR Region director, said she has yet to see Celeste's proposed law.

"HINP is a protected area, and we have to find out first the reasons why Celeste wants to declare a part of the park as alienable and disposable. We have to see if the reasons would justify the declaration as commercial and residential area," Davis said in a telephone interview.

Ronquillo said the HINP is part of a network of protected areas in the country that helps preserve the Philippines' biodiversity.

"So, it is, government is already providing very minimal support to the many protected areas in the country. The Celeste proposal to 'chop-chop' the Hundred Islands is a great disservice to the citizens of Aluminos City and Pangasinan and to the environment as well," he said.—Eduardo Sotelo and Gabriel Cardinoza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BACOLOD CITY

Biscuits down kids

FOURTEEN elementary pupils were believed to have been poisoned after eating expired biscuits on Barangay Lopez Jaena in the town of Manila, Negros Occidental, on Wednesday, health and police officials said Thursday.

Dr. Raymund Magbasil, Manila municipal health officer, said the 14 victims—aged 10 to 14 years old and students of Lopez Jaena Elementary School—vomited and suffered dizziness and abdominal pains after eating the repacked biscuits.

The biscuits, police said, were bought at the Libertad Public Market in Bacolod City.

SPO1 Jovito Tejada, investigator of the Manila Police Station, said police have detained Teresa Ilphan, who sold the biscuits to the children. Samples were taken to the Bureau of Food and Drugs for testing.

All 14 children were brought to the town's health clinic but most had been sent home after taking medicines.

Antonio Lacsamana, the town mayor, ordered police to locate the store that sold the biscuits and take legal action.—*Carlo P. Cornez, Inquirer Visayas*

■ TACLOBAN CITY

P1.19B Leyte budget

THE LEYTE provincial board on Tuesday approved a P1.19-billion budget for the province for 2010, which would come mainly from internal revenue allotment (IRA) as the government's share in the national income.

At least P1 billion of the 10-percent budget would come from IRA. The rest would be generated through local taxes and revenues projected to be at least P100 million.

Sakaluran for provincial government workers had the biggest allocation in the budget—P561.04 million.

—*Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

■ ROXAS CITY

Filariasis stalks Capiz

HEALTH officials of Capiz on Tuesday launched a campaign to aid volunteer medicines against filariasis, a disease that disfigures a patient's body in the province's poor.

Health officials declared Capiz to be the 41st province in the country where filariasis was endemic, or one of the nine places where the disease was spreading.

At least 41 persons in Sapi and Dumalag towns were found positive of lymphatic filariasis in January alone.

Lymphatic filariasis is an infection caused by filarial worms transmitted to humans by mosquito bites.

The worms live in human lymphatic vessels, causing severe swelling and pain. Filariasis is also known as elephantiasis, characterized by swelling of the legs and genitals, according to the data dregist.

Dr. Jarvis Pascuales, Capiz provincial health officer, said at a press conference last week that medicines were ready for mass administration to persons aged 5 and above.

A survey by the provincial health office on Sept. 8-12, 2008 found filariasis endemic in 16 out of 18 villages in Sapi. Most of these villages are so remote they are accessible only on foot.

—*Felipe P. Calitis, Inquirer Visayas*

CHURCH STATEMENT
A STREAMER is hung in front of a church in Bacolor, Pampanga, in protest of a casino that is rising in a hotel resort owned by a former "jueteng" financier. Church leaders are waging a battle against the casino that was given a license to operate by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

CHR: E. Visayas next to Davao in murders

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—EASTERN Visayas ranks second, behind only Davao, in the number of extrajudicial killings seen a period of eight years, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said on Thursday.

Speaking at an en banc public hearing in Calbayog City, CHR chairperson Leila de Lima said the number of extrajudicial killings in the former provinces alone had made Eastern Visayas the region with the second highest number of such killings.

De Lima said when CHR commissioners—Manuel Mamauag, Norberto de La Cruz and Ma. Victoria Cardona—were in Calbayog City on Thursday to conduct a public hearing on a spate of killings in Samar.

One of the victims was Catbalo priest Fr. Cirilo Loreto who was killed by still unidentified assailants on Sept. 6.

De Lima disclosed that the CHR regional office has taken "cognizance" of 67 extrajudicial killings that occurred in the region from 2005 to November 2009.

There were four extrajudicial killings in the region in 2005, three in 2006, 11 in 2007, 38 in 2008 and 11 in 2009, she said.

All of these cases were either dismissed or archived for lack of evidence or witnesses, De Lima said.

De Lima also made special mention of the case of Father Loreto.

"What disturbs us the most is the bizarre case of Fr. Cirilo Loreto. His work in preserving those who are marginalized to their human rights was put to a dastardly end by him or his assassins," De Lima said at the hearing.

She also said the killing of Loreto, a known human rights activist in Northern Samar, was a sign of a "brazen, drastic and audacious conspiracy to crush and suppress human rights."

Loreto was the brother of lawyer Rep. Wilfrar Lucero and Northern Samar Vice Gov. Antonio Lucero.

The military denied any involvement in the extra-legal killings in Samar.

When asked by De Lima if the military was involved in the killings, Maj. Gen. Arthur Tabaquero, commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division, insisted that the military had no role in these crimes.

In 'unusual' act, Sayyaf denies kidnap of 3 workers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE ABU Sayyaf in Basilan has denied involvement in the Nov. 11 kidnapping of two Chinese nationals and a Filipino from the Hight Tech Woodcraft Industry Corp. in Malusu town.

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Hatheed Sakalahul, who also heads the Crisis Management Committee, said he met emissaries in several Abu Sayyaf-led bandit groups, including Hurul Indama, to verify information that it was not the Abu Sayyaf that took the victims.

Sakalahul said on Thursday he received two calls from two different persons, who claimed they were ordered by the kidnappers of Michael Yin, 27, Oscar Yin Ua, 51 and Marpuri Bagsan to do so.

The callers, he said, had cited different demands.

Sakalahul said the first caller demanded P6 million for the release of the captives while another caller wanted P10 million.

"Both callers claimed they were just ordered by the kidnappers and that they are not party to the kidnapping and they also relayed that the Abu Sayyaf is not responsible for the kidnapping," he said.

But Sakalahul said the denial was unusual and he has doubts on the sincerity of their belief that Indama was behind the abduction.

"We have witnesses and victim sketches, besides we have arrested a suspect," said Senior Supt. Abdulsirat Rilwisa, Basilan police chief.

Sakalahul said he told the callers to present "proof of life and put into writing their demands if indeed the captives are in their custody."

Police were aware of the calls, said Director Wilfredo Tacapsi Jr., chief of the Western Mindanao's Directorate for Intelligence.—*Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Firm drops bid to use 'Ibaloi' as brand

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—A coffee company has withdrawn its intellectual property rights application using "Ibaloi" as a brand name for its products after Cordillera coffee growers contested the bid.

"I would like to officially inform you that Bonby Mountain Café Inc. has withdrawn its application with the Intellectual Property Office to secure the 'Ibaloi Coffee' trademark as a measure of respect to Ibaloi people who have been offended by this move," Flavie Yosi Cosi, president of the Bonby Mountain Café, BMCI, said in a Nov. 16 letter to Cerry Galvez-yano, chair of the Cordillera Regional Arabica Coffee Council (CRACC).

The CRACC is a government-recognized policymaking body mandated to help develop the Cordillera's coffee industry.

Lab-oyen, a Kankanaey-Ibaloi, welcomed the company's withdrawal of its trademark bid.

"We in Benguet are happy over this development, but this is a lesson for us ... to be more vigilant in asserting our rights as indigenous peoples and asserting our collective rights to maintaining beneficial business partnerships with local or foreign investors," he told the business.

The CRACC submitted a resolution of protest to the IPO Cordillera on Oct. 28 contesting BMCI's trademark application.

"Ibaloi is a tribe, an regional group in a product name means commodifying the tribe, something ethnic should be beyond the commerce of man," the CRACC said.

Cosi said BMCI is "not a foreign multinational but a Philippine corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and involved in the production and distribution of coffee."

But http://www.bonbycafe.com, a website on franchise information in the Philippines, described BMCI as "a Canadian coffee company that offers coffee services all over the world."

It lists its business address in British Columbia, Canada, but it has various subsidiaries and franchisees in other countries, including the Philippines.

In his letter to Lab-oyen, Cosi said his company's investment in applying for the "Ibaloi Coffee" trademark was "beyond ... profiteering allegations."

"The Ibaloi trademark is primarily to associate the BMC name to the coffee produced by Ibaloi farmers," he said.

THE CORDILLERA highlands are suitable for growing Arabica beans, but not for lending the name of an ethnic community there to a Canadian coffee product.

Illegal logging top concern in geothermal area

LEGAZPI CITY—ILLEGAL LOGging remains one of the major concerns of police in Tiwi, Albay province, and this year alone, they arrested 23 illegal loggers, a police official said on Thursday.

Supt. Reynaldo Rola Sinogaya, Tiwi police chief, said in a phone interview that although there was no large-scale illegal logging in the town, it still remains one of their major concerns because "it would have a big effect on the environment."

Last week, four men were caught in the act of cutting trees at the 16,000-hectare National Power Corp.'s Tiwi Wheeled Geothermal Reserve, a protected area in Barangay Bariis.

Dela Ilarna said the four alone, the police also confiscated at least five chainsaws, more than 300 sacks of wood, six motorcycles and four jeeps used for illegal logging.—*Jeannie Joi Bulos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Landfills lacking in Cordillera

WASTE MANAGEMENT continues to be a puzzle that Baguio City and the rest of the Cordillera have yet to solve.

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Save for Baguio City, waste generated by the rest of the Cordillera is yet to reach alarming levels but environment officials said this is not an excuse to relax the implementation of waste reduction measures to keep the environment clean.

Officials of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in the region said the emergence of fast urbanizing areas may change the picture in the next few years and that would demand drastic moves in waste management.

"If the region's towns and provinces would not act now, they would find themselves facing a big problem in the future," Pegalio Moreno, EMB regional director, said.

Moreno said the region fared better compared with other areas in the country in terms of the volume of waste generated daily.

But this did not look good if viewed on a regional level, he said.

Based on records from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, only 62 of 1,175 villages in Abra, Ajatayo, Benguet, Kalinga, Bontoc and Mt. Province have materials recovery facilities (MRFs or recycling centers) or a compliance rate of only 5.27 percent.

Baguio City is worse. It only has three MRFs out of 128 villages, for a 2.3 percent compliance rate.

Moreno said the region still has 20 open and controlled dumps but it has yet to establish a fully operational engineered sanitary landfill.

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003) has directed local governments to close all open dumps, operate MRFs and build engineered sanitary landfills to treat wastes.

Only three towns in the region are in the process of completing their engineered sanitary landfills—Rizal in Abra, Alfonso Lista in Ifugao and Sabangan in Mt. Province.

But Moreno said the absence of landfills in most towns was due to the high cost of building the facility. The cost would depend on the landfill category required to relate it to the volume of waste generated, he said.

"Most often, an engineered sanitary landfill required to preserve clay lining or some measures to control leachate (contained wastewater)," he said.

Moreno said the region's garbage came mostly from residential areas and banks.

Household wastes could be taken to EMB's white agricultural wastes, like vegetable trimmings, could be composted, he said.

But many areas are offsetting and this could alter the volume of agricultural and residential wastes, he said.

Delmer Cuevas, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Wives taking over husbands in Negros races

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE WIVES OF A GOVernorand three mayors will run for many of their husbands' positions in next year's elections in Negros Occidental.

Negros Occidental 4th district Rep. Jeffrey Ferrer confirmed on Thursday that his wife, lawyer Julier Marie Ferrer, would run for mayor of La Carlota City.

Incumbent La Carlota City Mayor Jeremy John Hernando would not seek reelection, Ferrer said.

He said Hernando would act as the campaign manager of Mrs. Ferrer.

Murcia Mayor Sheffena Concelleria-Alcantara said on Thursday that his wife, Judith, would run for mayor of their town.

Third term Moiseph Mayor Salvador Galanto said his wife, Lourdes Leonin Galanto, would run for mayor of the town, while San Enrique Mayor Dr. Jilson Tabilisaro's wife, Hezbeth, also has plans to run for mayor of San Enrique.

United Negros Alliance (UNA) gubernatorial candidate Alfredo Marañon Jr. would head Unit congressional and provincial slates in filing their certificates of candidacy on Nov. 28.

Negros Regulatory Administration (NRA) administrator Rafael Coscolluela was also expected to announce his gubernatorial bid soon.

Marañon had boasted that he would win by a landslide.

"In that case, I'll just try harder," NRA chief Coscolluela said in turn.

DAVAO CITY MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte lends Sen. Manuel Arroyo's Bicol 8, candidate for vice president of the Liberal Party during Bicol' section (Davao City, Bicol' camp hope an what it said was Duterte's endorsement of Bicol' candidacy.

No presidential bet for Duterte, but Mar's his VP

DAVAO CITY—MAYOR RODRIGO DUTERTE is firm in his support for the vice presidential bid of Sen. Mar Roxas, an aide said yesterday.

"Yes, Mar for VP. Inley presidente," Lawrence Go, Duterte's executive assistant, said in a text message.

Duterte personally welcomed Roxas here on Wednesday and even allowed the senator to drive his pickup truck around the city.

During a gathering of supporters, Duterte was overheard saying: "Kung ayaw kita presidente (He is not for president)."

He then went on to say that Roxas is "limpyo," meaning he had not been embroiled in corruption scandals.

Duterte is regarded as one of the influential politicians of Southern Mindanao, which is composed of the Davao provinces and Compostela Valley.

In Davao del Norte, Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario also endorsed the bid of Roxas and the candidacy of Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

Del Rosario was a Lakas stalwart in Davao del Norte. Jeffrey Dapon and Provincial Lin, Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Visayas

Aylee Jan Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Special trees for poor Samareños

By Vicente Labro
Catbalogan, Samar

THESE SPECIAL trees have borne fruits of hope in hundreds of poor families in Samar province.

Actually fully adorned minature Christmas trees, the items are quietly auctioned off, together with items art works, during the annual Festival of Trees (FOT) to raise funds for antipoverty and preventive-health programs for the "neediest" among the Filipinos.

Started in 1999, the FOT is a fund-raising event held every two quarters and hosted by the Makati Garden Club and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), with prominent and charitable individuals attending.

The year, the festival was held sometime last month.

The first beneficiary was Samar, whose Waqueds Bay was already deplored of marine resources.

"Our resources (there) was the degraded coastal and upland resources (because) majority of the people (in Samar) were dependent on the coastal resources of the Waqueds Bay," said Cecilia Ang, PBSP human programs consultant.

Much of the funds were initially devoted to the establishments of marine protected areas in Barangay Cabugcatan on Buri Island in Catbalogan, the capital town of Samar. The projects involved mangrove reforestation, marine sanctuary establishment, and seaflower production to provide extra income to residents.

THE FLOATING fish cages of the PBSP near Barangay Old Mahayag.

"These mangrove plants do not only serve as a breeding area for fish but also prevent our village from big waves during bad weather," said Ronita Rivale, 62, a member of the Cabugcatan Multipurpose Cooperative.

Weeks said many cooperative members had already availed themselves of the livelihood and environmental protection projects of the PBSP.

Instead of poor catch, the islanders had been living dangerously, particularly during typhoons, because the mangroves had almost been used up as firewood.

Fish stocks had also drastically diminished because marine resources in the Maqueda Bay were being exploited due to over-fishing and illegal fishing methods.

Rampant cutting of trees and erosion aggravated the destruction in the uplands.

But things started to change when the PBSP with funding support from the FOT, began their projects, including community organizing, environmental awareness and livelihood skills training.

It was not easy at first because most of the farmers and fishermen hesitant to accept the new technologies. "They had this wait and see attitude," Ang recalled.

However, the people eventually changed after the training sessions, she said.

The PBSP, a private and non-profit foundation dedicated to promoting business sector commitments to social development, spearheaded the implementation of the FOT-funded Cabalagian Area Resources Management Project (CARMP).

According to Ang, the early beneficiaries were Barangays Cabugcatan, New Mahayag, Old Mahayag, Igsail, San Roque-Silanga, Pupua and Igsail.

Later, the PBSP area was expanded to Barangay Ito-as in Alsong town, Barangay Irisgawa in Tarangnan town, and Barangay San Vicente, Lourdino, Bangdan and Bol in Catbalogan.

In 2002, however, FOT funding for the farmer projects ended. Although the annual activity went on, its proceeds went to the less fortunate in other areas in the country.

Fortunately for the farmer beneficiaries, the projects were continued by a Belgian non-government organization.

Ang said that without the projects funded by the FOT and the barangays outreach already organized, the residents could not have availed themselves of the new funding source.

The number of beneficiaries has already reached 3,420, she said.

Based on a survey conducted in August, 1,044 people had benefited from the livelihood projects. Their income rose from P2,500-P3,000 a month to P6,000-P9,000.

They are engaged in cashew production, fish drying, aquaculture, planting of rice, corn, root crops or vegetables, raising swine, livestock or poultry, mangrove plantation, rubber cultivation and agro-forestry projects.

As support facilities, the PBSP maintains a multi-species hatchery, floating fish cages, a seed bank, a vermicompost production area, a farm development area and an upland nursery.

The multi-species hatchery in Barangay Old Mahayag has about a dozen concrete tanks, several floating fish cages for breeding milkfish, grouper, snapper, sea bass, mudfish and pampano, and bird flies/pest, PBSP-technical officers.

It is now the source of chop-fries and technical assistance to beneficiaries.

In New Mahayag, the PBSP has an office and dormitory buildings in the "area" along the national highway. Tall trees surround the area, which has a nursery for seedlings, cherries, parish and other indigenous trees intended for reforestation projects.

Stars of hope, cards to rebuild school

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Corp

HELP REBUILD A school razed by fire. Buy cards and stars of hope this Christmas.

Fire destroyed the St. Vincent High School in Valderrama town in Negros Occidental on Aug. 17, but it has rekindled the hospitality spirit among students and members of the community, Tim Lopez of the Valderrama Helping Hands Foundation Inc., said.

"Buying a star and card is a meaningful gift to give this Christmas because we know that every purchase of these products will help restore the educational future of hundreds of high school students," Lopez said.

The stars are works of art of students of the burnt down school and the cards by pupils of the Valderrama Central Elementary School.

The Franciscan Sisters founded the school in the early 1950s. It once was a two-storey building can accommodate about 500 students.

Since then, the school in the fourth-class municipality had produced thousands of students, a number of whom have become professionals, Catholic priests and educators, Lopez said.

The school had encountered setbacks and inadequate educational facilities because of its relatively low tuition.

However, its dedicated teachers did not falter in giving a good Catholic education to its students, Lopez said.

Fr. Tirso Ito Antonio, one of the school administrators, was responsible for uniting higher standards and imposing strict disciplinary measures to prepare the students for the challenges of a college life, she added.

But in the early morning of Aug. 17, disaster struck. Fire caused by faulty electrical wiring ruined the school and the nearby parish church.

It spread rapidly because the roofs did not have a fire stock, and nothing was saved, Lopez said.

Spirit of hope

Today the school has been relocated to a nearby site, literally built from the ground up by community work. The parents built the classrooms from bamboo and nipa.

The present administrators, the Franciscan sisters, headed by Sister Susan and academic coordinator Helen Barrette, are slowly trying to rebuild from the ashes, Lopez said.

With the help of the Valderrama Helping Hands Foundation Inc., Lopez said the students hatched the idea of hope "symbolizing that amidst the darkness, a star sparkles in the night lighting up a spirit of hope."

The students have created beautifully handcrafted and brightly colored Christmas items. Interested in their creations or would like to help were area businesses, Lopez said.

"It is when said that during times of crisis, the best of man comes out. Indeed, the fire has solidified the spirit of cooperation amongst the people of Valderrama," she said.

Even the elementary pupils of the Central School of Valderrama have come up with their own paintings that were reproduced into note cards, packaged into sets of eight for sale.

In Bacolod City, the stars and cards will be available at the Negros Showroom.

Those interested may call Tim Lopez at 09173971507 or e-mail her at valderhelpinghands@yahoo.com or tcol@yahoo.com.

THE STUDENTS making "stars of hope" with their teacher Aziye Palomar (right).

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
REGION XIII-CARAGA
Butuan, Agusan del Sur

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE ROADS OF ALIPAGAN AREA
(RID-MUP-2-9-5)

The National Irrigation Administration, through its REGIONAL CLUSTER Committee on the, now invites Philippine Bureau Accredited Contractors, Prime Contractors Duly Registered Contractors Association and Qualified Individuals to bid for the Improvement of Service Roads of Alipagan Area with the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000.00) inclusive of VAT and all other taxes which are considered as part of the cost of the project.

The National Irrigation Administration now invites bids for the improvement of Service Roads of Alipagan Area (RID-MUP-2-9-5). The Implementation of the Project is required within 90 calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instruction to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding is restricted to Philippine citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the National Irrigation Administration, Service, Butuan City, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from November 23, 2009 to December 7, 2009 from the address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00).

The National Irrigation Administration will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on November 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at National Irrigation Administration Regional Office, Conference Hall, Butuan, to clarify and address queries on the bidding.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. SEBASTIAN T. MAGLASANG, JR.
Bids Chairman
Bidding Committee Administration
Service, Butuan City
Tel. No. 342-5305
Fax No. 342-5305

(Sgd.) SEBASTIAN T. MAGLASANG, JR.
Bids Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd.) DOMICIANO R. ORANA, JR., CESO V
Regional Manager

(Pub. November 21, 2009)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE LEYECO II POWER AGREEMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) REPRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO II OR SUBTRANSMISSION ASSETS

ERC CASE NO. 2009-013 MC

LEYECO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO II),

Applicant.

x-----x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on February 17, 2009, Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) filed an application for the approval of the Lease Purchase Agreement (LPA) dated September 21, 2009 entered into between the National Power Corporation (NPC) represented by the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) and Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) of subtransmission assets.

In the said application, LEYECO II alleged, among others, that:

1. It operates and is a Lease Purchase Agreement (LPA) with the NPC, represented by TRANSCO, whereby all rights, interests and liability in the subtransmission assets owned by NPC and TRANSCO were agreed to be sold and transferred to applicant;

2. It was agreed that the purchase price to be paid for the subtransmission asset in Eastern Visayas Three Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Fifty-Eight Pesos and Sixty Centavos (P365,058.60) to be paid upon approval of the Application:

2.1 Twenty percent (20%) of the total purchase price equivalent to Three Million Six Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Eleven Pesos and Sixty-Five Centavos (P3,673,011.65) shall be paid upon approval of the said application;

2.2 Eighty percent (80%) of the total purchase price equivalent to Fourteen Million Six Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Forty-Six Pesos and Sixty Centavos (P14,692,046.60) shall be paid in sixty (60) equal monthly installments (P 171 pesos in one hundred two (102) equal monthly installments;

3. Under the agreement, it shall take control, possession, operate and maintain the subtransmission assets upon the payment of twenty percent (20%) down payment of the purchase price and the execution by TRANSCO, its representative of the NPC, of a Deed of Transfer. Prior to the payment of the twenty percent (20%) down payment, it shall pay monthly NPC, through TRANSCO, 1% the use of the assets;

4. It was agreed that NPC, through TRANSCO, shall file before the Commission an application for the approval of the LPA, but no later than October TRANSCO or NPC, and time frame, and for which reason that it was constrained to do so the filing of the instant application;

5. It is in a financial position to pay the down payment of twenty percent (20%) of the purchase price but would not do so because of the failure of NPC, through TRANSCO, to secure the necessary approval from the Commission;

6. It derives substantial of the technical, financial, managerial and personnel capability such as taking control, possession, operation and maintenance of the assets;

7. The immediate approval of the application and the transfer of control, possession, operation and maintenance of the assets to it would redound to the benefit of the member-consumers for the other hand, any approval of the LPA would be detrimental to the applicant and its member-consumers;

8. It assumed the approval and endorsement of the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) of the application for subtransmission assets.

The Commission has set the application for initial hearing and pre-trial conference on December 2, 2009 (Wednesday) at three o'clock in the afternoon (3:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party to the filing at least ten (10) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a petition to intervene and the petition shall attach the petitioner's affidavit of interest, the circumstances establishing petitioner's basis for its claim and the issues of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want to be heard, but not to be Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the application or comment on the application, or any stage of the proceeding before the Commission may consider the presentation of their views in the applicable form of opposition or comment is required, but the concerned, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the person's interest in the proceeding and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicants, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicants are hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application subject to payment of reasonable costs of reproduction of materials not exceeding ONE (1) peso per page. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during office hours.

WITNESS: the Honorable Chairperson, ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-DUPLAY, and the Honorable Commissioners, ALFREDO J. BANE, MARIA TERESA A.D. CASTAÑEDA, and JOSE C. REYES, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 20th day of October 2009 at Pasig City.

ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN
Executive Director II

(ERC Vicinity 01-1009)

E-mail: p_news@inquirer.com.ph
NEWS

Cast as 'other woman,' Krista is 'suffering'

By Raynard Sun Diego Jr.

CAST AS THE "OTHER WOMAN" in a real-life soap opera, actress Krista Ranillo is "suffering emotional attacks," her manager Arnold Vegafria told the Inquirer.

For weeks now, the grapevine has been rife with rumors linking Ranillo to married boxing sensation Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao.

"As far as I know, Krista and Manny are just friends and runners," said Vegafria, who called from Switzerland on Thursday.

Before he left for Europe, Vegafria said the 23-year-old actress had asked his permission to join Team Pacquiao in Las Vegas for his pitch fight with Miguel Cotto last Sunday.

Deeply troubled

"I allowed her to go since she's on break (team taping [Abt ABS-CBN show] Ngiting). At that time, I didn't know the intrigues would explode like this."

When he last spoke to Ranillo on Wednesday, Vegafria said his niece was deeply troubled. "She's suffering. She's being hit from all sides. Kawawa naman siya. (I pity her.) She's getting emotional."

He recalled that Ranillo also asked for his advice on how to handle the raging controversy.

"I don't usually meddle in the personal lives of my artists," he explained. "But the (actress) (he chose the name and) advised her to face the music and tell the truth. These rumors will never stop until you confront them."

Ranillo has gone on the record to deny her alleged affair with Pacquiao, along with rumors that she's pregnant with his love child.

In a message, he said, it's his job to contain the worsening situation. He is aware that his word is being portrayed in a bad light in the media, specifically as a homewrecker and seductress.

"I need to do some damage control. It's just unfortunate that we are miles away from each other. I'm in Europe (for the concert tour of another salsa Billy Crawford) and she is in the US. I plan to sit down with her and have a heart-to-heart talk as soon as we are back in Manila," he said.

Vegafria says he feels so helpless as his word. "I don't know the real score. I really need to discuss matters with Krista. Every day, I receive calls from the media. Krista has turned off her phone ... to avoid the press. So I have no way of contacting her."

Paparazzi video

He said he isn't aware of the paparazzi video currently making the rounds in the Internet. In the stolen shot, Pacquiao is seen driving a car with "a woman other than his wife." In various reports, it was implied that the misidentified woman, who was covering her face in the video, was actually Ranillo.

"I don't know anything about the video. All I know was that she had been invited by Team Pacquiao to watch the fight. I allowed her because they were just fellow-kaibo (greenhorn). I never expected it to get this bad. That's why I told her that she needs to talk soon."

To clear things out, Vegafria is setting up a press conference upon Ranillo's return to the country, which will coincide with her launch as the 2010 sexy calendar girl of Gowbaya, a lingerie company that Pacquiao co-endorses.

He also denied allegations that Ranillo's entire family flew to Las Vegas on business class to watch the fight.

"Her family's now based in Los Angeles, where her younger brother works as a chef and her younger sister studies," Vegafria said.

Ranillo is the eldest of the three children of actor Mac Ranillo III and former model Linda Tuyan.

He also denied reports that Ranillo was prejudiced into the affair with Pacquiao by her fellow who is reportedly running for a congressional seat in Mindanao.

In 2007, Ranillo's father Mac and lost in his bid for a congressional seat in the second district of Zamboanga del Norte. According to reports, Pacquiao had promised to "support" Ranillo's political plans.

KRISTA RANILLO: Sexy pose from a gin calendar

"I have no idea about Mac's political plans. I don't manage Mac. He haven't really talked about politics," Vegafria said.

There are also speculations that the controversy could just be a gimmick to promote Pacquiao and Ranillo's movie, "Shotgun Boys," a science-fiction fantasy and an entry to this December's Metro Manila Film Festival.

In the movie, Pacquiao plays an unlikely superhero, while Ranillo portrays a sweet teacher who transforms into a sultry villainess.

Sexy cover girl

In real life, Ranillo, who has posed for scenes of two sexy men's magazines (Maxim and FHM) and as a columnist in one (Maxim), couldn't be further from the extreme public perception of her as a temptress, her manager insisted.

"She's very simple and intelligent," said Vegafria who started managing the actress after she graduated from college three years ago.

Ranillo finished high school in Ponoka and college in Ateneo de Manila University where she took interdisciplinary studies, with tracks in psychology and communication.

Her grandmother, veteran actress Gloria Ivorilla, expressed pride in Ranillo in a previous interview with the Inquirer.

"Krista gave up show biz for two years to concentrate on her studies. That led to a scholar. It would be a pity to quit," Ivorilla said.

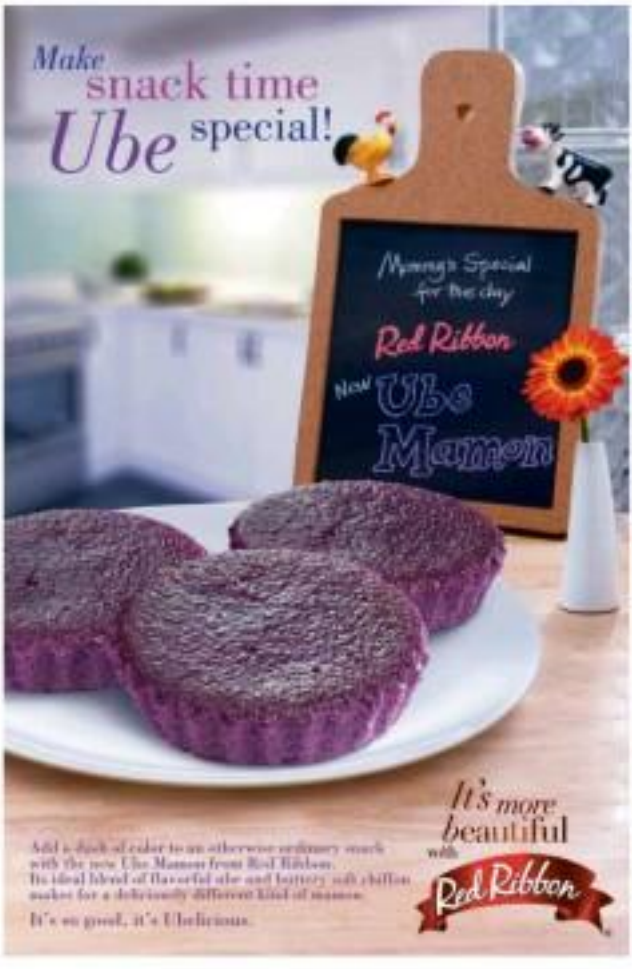
Ranillo was also previously linked to another married celebrity, actor Michael de Mesa, 10 years ago, when Ranillo was barely 18.

Ranillo has denied the rumor, but Sir Mesa's ex-wife, actress Gina Alajar, posted in her Facebook account: "If I were Jinkee Pacquiao, I wouldn't give up on Manny because of KRIA ... she is not an all-rounder."

In an interview, Alajar said the buzzsaw that although she's not confirming the gossip, she's standing by her post and that it was just her opinion on a raging controversy. "It was just an unsolicited advice." In any case, Alajar said that she hasn't "an ill feelings toward anyone. That's the past."

Vegafria admitted that the controversy would not really harm Ranillo's image which now pursuing more mature roles.

It's still uncertain, though, whether she can survive this, her toughest role so far, in the "third side" on this real-life soap opera.



WOMAN IN RED: Krista is said to be suffering from anxiety attacks.

Aplus METRO
Lizzy Ahodardo S. Ubaldo

NO DILG DIRECTIVE, SAY SAN LO VILLAGERS

Chair's return sparks new row

By Allison W. Lopez

A STORM IS BREWING ANEW in Makati City's richest barangay as residents claimed its suspended barangay chair illegally took over operations on Thursday without a directive from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

A group of 15 residents from San Lorenzo Village in Barangay San Lorenzo yesterday said Joshua John Santiago did not follow procedure when he "forcibly" took over the barangay hall, barring only a resolution from the Office of the President (OP) on the administrative case against him.

"The decision of Malacañang is not self-executory. Decisions of the OP on matters concerning local government officials are supposed to be implemented by the DILG," said lawyer Pompey Lawyer of the barangay officials.

They claimed Santiago's takeover was "premature" since the DILG had not been directed by the OP to reinstate Santiago and lift the suspension order previously issued to him.

Mêlée restricted

"The occurrence of barangay staff was impeded and entry to the barangay office, including the clinic, was severely restricted by Mr. Santiago and his companions," said ruling barangay chair Erasmo Wong and Inggrid Jocelyn Hernandez, Dean Legaspi Plamiedes, Brigido Silvag and Norman Golez in a letter addressed to Interior Secretary Edwardo Ermita, also president of the village.

Santiago, for his part, said he was "vindicated" by the resolution signed by Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Marivelet Datoy, who junked the opposing camp's motion for reconsideration.

"We should all respect the decision of the OP. If they feel strongly about it, then they should file in court," he told INQUIRER.

He added that the villagers should stop "resist instigating" and instead bring their issues to the proper forum.

Suspension

In April, Santiago was ordered suspended by the ombudsman after he was found guilty of purchasing and installing 677 pieces of lampposts worth ₱24 million, issuing a ₱5.8 million check for a "nonexistent" restaurant deal, and issuing a ₱100,000 check in the name of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines (DSAP).

Santiago brought the administrative matter to the OP and on Aug. 20, Ermita removed him from the lamppost and commercial issues but found him guilty of "simple misconduct" for the check issued to DSAP.

Ermita later stopped the implementation of the decision until the resolution signed by Datoy came about, citing a Supreme Court ruling stating that a motion for reconsideration is a "prohibitive pleading" in cases appealed to the OP.

Though the barangay officials claimed data was allowed under Sec. 7 of Administrative Order No. 10 of 1987, the deputy executive secretary said the Local Government Code of 1991 prevails over the order.

The motion for reconsideration was re-

Man facing child abuse raps in Australia arrested by NBI

FRESH ... AND PRICEY
A worker shows off cargo of squash delivered to the markets of Divisoria in Manila straight from Cagayan province. With the latest round of fuel price increases, the cost of vegetables transported from the provinces is likely to increase, especially during the holidays. (JOVEN CRUZ)

By Tina G. Santos

A MAN ACCUSED OF CHILD molestation in Australia was arrested in his home in Quezon City by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) following a request for his extradition made by Australian authorities.

The suspect, Gary Zahat Cohen, was apprehended last week by venue of warrants of arrest for extradition case issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 52. No bail was recommended for his provisional liberty.

Ganyee Claro de Castro Jr., chief of the NBI Interpol Division, said Cohen is facing criminal charges in the court of the Justice of the Peace, New South Wales (NSW), Australia, for violating the Crimes Act 1900, including four counts of sexual intercourse with a child between 10 and 16 years old, one count of aggravated indecent assault on a child under 10 years old and one count of aggravated indecent assault on a child under 16 years old.

Records disclosed that the victim is the cousin of Cohen, who lived with the latter's family in New South Wales from November 1997 to May 1998.

On May 17, 1998, Cohen, apparently drunk, had sexual intercourse with the victim. The incident was reported to the police the following day.

Cohen was arrested by the New South Wales Police three days later.

With caveats

During investigation, he admitted that he had sex with the victim but claimed it was with the latter's consent.

The victim told authorities that the suspect had been molesting her since she was 7 years old until she was 12.

The Children's Hospital in New South Wales, Australia issued a request that the victim even contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

On June 10, 1999, the respondent was bailed out on conditions to appear at Penrith Local Court. His passport was seized as a condition of his bail.

New South Wales authorities also notified the Department of Immigration of the respondent's arrest and advised the agency that Cohen had illegally entered Australia under the name of Antonio Zahat.

On August 27, 1999, the respondent was taken in custody by immigration officials for using the name Antonio Zahat and was subsequently deported to the Philippines on Oct. 28, 1999, without the knowledge of the New South Wales Police. As a result, he failed to attend the court hearings in Australia.

The extradition case was filed at the Manila court which ordered the NBI to arrest the respondent.

Cohen, who is engaged in the dressing business, was arrested at his rented house in Novaliches, Quezon City, by NBI agents who posed as clients.

Marikina City shuts down 25 unsafe junk shops

By DJ Yap

THE DESTRUCTIVE JUNK SHOPS in Marikina City were ordered shut for failing to comply with training and sanitation requirements, officials said Thursday.

Business Permits and License Office acting chief Alberto Aguilar said the shops did not secure the requirements such as operating a non-environmental/industrial zones, using space of at least 100 square meters, and securing sanitation and health certificates.

Aguilar said these guidelines are stipulated in Ordinance No. 98, series of 2006, which regulates junk shop operations in Marikina City.

In a statement, Mayor Marides Fernando said the city would severely enforce the ordinance to safeguard public health as well as address safety and sanitation concerns.

Restrictions

"Implementing restrictions helps ensure that junk shops do not pose any hazards to health. We also want owners to operate their business properly and responsibly," she said.

Officials said there are 31 junk shops that operate in Marikina City.

Violators of the ordinance will be issued the following penalties: P1,000 on the first offense; P3,000 on the second, and revocation of business permit and license to operate on the third offense.

'In principle'

Ordinance No. 80 actually parallels a resolution approved "in principle" by the Metro Manila Council urging local governments to enact a uniform ordinance that will regulate the operations of junk shops and volunteering shops throughout the metropolis.

In the same resolution, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando said it is high time city mayors are mandated on the operations of those involved in collection and junk dealing, particularly those on the sidewalks.

He said these shops worsen traffic congestion, add to the piles of junk and recyclable materials stockpiled on the streets and even on the roofs of these shops are unsightly.

Chair's return ...

From page A-19

retired a day beyond the prescribed 15-day period to file an appeal, Llorca added.

"We intend to bring this to the Court of Appeals for the meantime, we will ask the OP to suspend the implementation of the order. We will ask them to cite Mr. Santiago in contempt for defiantly taking the law in his own hands," said Llorca.

The Department of Interior and Local Government confirmed yesterday that they had not yet received any directive reinstating Santiago from Mintalcahang.

"I told him to show me the order from Malacañang by Monday because we do not have a copy," said DILG Makati Director Felicidad Iller, who went in San Lorenzo Village's hall. I got, instead, a letter addressed to the head of the would step down at noon if there was no directive by then."

Iller said she was asked by DILG Undersecretary Eduardo Ballaman Jr., DILG NCR director, to tell Santiago that the DILG had not received any order from Malacañang to this date.

Despite having a resolution from the OP, she said Santiago should have waited for the DILG to install him again as barangay chief.

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'Paskong Pinoy' with a mission

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In its efforts to reach out to more individuals across the globe, the Ayala Automotive group of companies, Automotive Philippines and Ayala Motors, Summers Millennium, Summer Odyssey and Summer Splendor, have prepared a truly authentic Paskong Pinoy celebration. By doing this, the latter who have some home to celebrate the holidays in Metro Manila with their families are reminded to look christmas traditions that they have surely missed away from home.

CELEBRITY endorsers Sam Milby, Miriam Quiambao and Maggie Wilson with Ayala Motors general manager Lee Yee Peng, Ayala International director of human capital Ms Marian Villar and Ayala International director of sales and marketing Jaime Gomez.

As the name implies, the event is meant to look christmas traditions that they have surely missed away from home.

As the name Makati

Peru gang killed people for their fat, say police

LIMA, PERU—POLICE SAY a gang in the Peruvian jungle has been killing people and draining fat from the corpses to sell on the black market for use in cosmetics, although medical experts say they doubt a major market for fat exists.

Three suspects confessed to killing five people, but the gang may have been involved in dozens more, said Col. Jorge Mejia, chief of Peru's anti-kidnapping police. He said one suspect claimed the gang wasn't the only one stealing such killings.

Mejia said two of the suspects were arrested carrying bottles of liquid human fat and told police it was worth $60,000 a gallon ($15,000 a liter). The fat was sold to cosmetics labs in Peru's capital, Lima, and police suspect it was then sold to cosmetic companies in Europe, Mejia said on Thursday, but he could not confirm any sales.

Medical experts expressed doubt that there was a major black market for human fat, though it does have cosmetic applications. A dermatology professor at Yale University, Dr. Lisa Gonsalves, speculated that a small market may exist for "because the earmarks" to keep skin supple, but she said that in short bursts, each year, not on an "year-to-year" basis.

At a news conference, police showed reporters two bottles of fat recovered from the suspects and a photo of the smiling head of a 27-year-old male victim, Ingmer Efraim Sagastume Castellejos, 29, left police to the head, recovered in a corn-growing valley last month, Mejia said.

Mejia said Castellejos reconstructed how the gang cut off its victims' heads, arms and legs, removed the organs, then suspended the torsos from hooks above candles that warmed the flesh so fat dripped into tubs below.

Six members of the gang remain at large, Mejia said. Among them was the band's alleged leader, Ricardo Cadenas, 38, who Castellejos told police has been killing people to extract human fat for more than three decades.

The rest are minors, at least 60 people are listed as missing in Huanuco province, where the gang allegedly operated, though the province is also home to drug-trafficking rebel rebels.

Mejia said police received a tip four months ago that human fat from the jungle was being sold in Lima to import, he said, police infiltrated the band and later obtained some of the stolen fluid, which a police lab confirmed as human fat.

On Nov. 3, police arrested Sergio Marino Hvanovski and Cristina Rivera in a Lima bus station with a liter of human fat in a soda bottle. Their testimony led to the arrest of Castellejos three days later at the same bus station.

The three are charged with homicide, criminal conspiracy, illegal firearms possession and drug trafficking, according to a statement from Lima Superior Court. Police said they were searching for the alleged leader.

Police dubbed the gang the "Pishtaco" after a Peruvian myth dating to pre-Columbian times of men who killed to extract human fat, spawning chary victims and watchers.

Medical authorities contacted by The Associated Press said human fat is used in antiwrinkle treatments—but it always separated from the patient who is being treated, usually from the stomach or buttocks. AP

Europe heads to unknown with unknowns in top jobs

BRUSSELS—THE EU SAYS IT has solved an old problem for Washington.

Minutes after being named the EU's first full-time president on Thursday, Belgian Premier Herman van Rompuy said, "I'm anxiously waiting for the first phone call."

The statement referred to a longtime American lament that US officials have no one to call in Europe to hear what their allies are thinking. The choice of Van Rompuy as EU president and EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton as a powerful new EU foreign minister is supposed to change that.

Yet the choice dashed hopes of those who wanted to raise Europe's global profile by appointing bigger-name candidates to give a united Europe a voice in the world commensurate with its economic bulk.

Van Rompuy and Ashton are meant to give the EU a bigger role on issues such as climate change, terrorism and trade amid the rise of China, Brazil and India. They were chosen from ideas of candidates, some such as former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, boasting more eye-catching backgrounds.

Britain's Labour government pushed for Blair but France and Germany scotched him and smaller EU nations bristled the idea largely because of his strong support for the Iraq war, a position that angered many Europeans.

Marco Incerti, an analyst at the European Policy Studies, a Brussels-based think tank, spoke of "a bad legend" on Europe's credit-payments.

"We have too low-profile figures. Ties is too much. The world was waiting for the EU to pick out a person which would answer the famous question of who you would call in Europe," said Incerti.

He said Ashton lacked experience to be a factor in the international standoff with Iran over Tehran's nuclear ambitions and efforts to get Israelis and Palestinians back to peace talks.

"Her particular post really requires expertise in the field of foreign policy which Catherine Ashton does not have, nor does she have any interest in abroad," Incerti, an online publisher of geopolitical intelligence based in Austin, Texas, was no more charitable.

It said Van Rompuy's "lack of international visibility ... gave against what Germany and France went in an EU president." But coming from a small EU nations he "will be amenable to their influence, therefore guaranteeing that Berlin and Paris will set the agenda through his presidency." AP

BELGIUM'S Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy (left) and EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton (right) from Britain smile after being elected respectively EU president and EU foreign policy chief in Brussels on Nov. 19. At center is Sweden's Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, whose country holds the EU rotating presidency. AFP/EPA

200 websites spread Qaida's message in English

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA—Increasing numbers of English-language websites are spreading al-Qaida's message to Muslims in the West.

They translate writings and sermons once largely out of reach of English-speaking audiences from disseminating clerics like Anwar al-Awlaki, who exchanged dozens of e-mails with the US Army psychiatrist accused of the shootings at the Fort Hood military base in Texas.

The US-born al-Awlaki has been an inspiration to several militants arrested in the United States and Canada in recent years, with his Web-based sermons often serving up on their computers.

"The point is you don't have to be an official part of al-Qaida to spread hatred and extremist views," said Brian Fishman, a counter-insurgency fellow for the New York-based New America Foundation, which researches Islamic militants.

"If you look at the most influential documents in terms of homegrown terrorism cases, it's not training manuals or bomb-making books," Fishman said. "The most influential documents are the ones that are written by theological advisers, some of whom are not even official al-Qaida members."

Most of the radical Islamic sites are not run or directed by al-Qaida, but they provide a powerful tool for recruiting sympathizers to its cause of jihad, or holy war, against the United States, experts who track the activity said.

The number of English-language sites sympathetic to al-Qaida has risen from about 30 seven years ago to more than 200 recently, said Abdulrahman Alarefaj, head of a Saudi government program called Assakina that monitors some 300 fundamentalist Islamic websites.

In response, Arabic-language militant sites have dropped to around 50, down from 1,000 seven years ago, because of officials by governments around the world to shut them down, he said. AP

Trial of American for Briton's murder in Italy nears end

PERUGIA—CLOSING ARGUMENTS WERE to begin on Friday in the trial of American student Amanda Knox for the 2007 murder of her British housemate in the Italian university town of Perugia.

The killing of Meredith Kercher allegedly resulting from a drug-fueled sexual misadventure involving Knox, her then boyfriend and a third person sparked sensational headlines in Britain.

Knox and Raffaele Sollecito, an Italian engineering student, have been held since a few days after the murder, which occurred late on Nov. 1, 2007, with Halloween festivities still in the air.

The third defendant in the case, Ivorian Rudy Guede, was already convicted and sentenced to the maximum 30 years in prison for the murder in a "fast-track" trial judged solely on the basis of the forensic evidence.

Knox, now 22, Sollecito, 25, and Guede, 22, are accused of killing Kercher after she refused to join in a group sex session.

Kercher was found semi-nude in a pool of blood with her throat cut in the house in Perugia, a medieval walled city in central Italy, that she shared with Knox. She was 21.

In the prosecutors' scenario, Guede held Kercher down while Sollecito and Knox stabbed her.

Kercher's family are seeking 20 million euros ($40 million) from the alleged killers.

Knox's part-time employer at the time of the murder has turned star witness for Perugia's public prosecutor's office, which is suing Knox for defamation.

She initially implicated Lumumba in the murder, and Perugia police held him for two weeks before releasing him without charge.

Lie's shoes and tote bags stand out in a casual footwear they are replete with the telltale Chinese characters that are printed in Taiwanese newspapers and the colorful photos and advertisements that accompany them.

Both of the items go through a time-consuming manufacturing process and neither comes cheap. A pair of paper shoes takes three to four hours to make and sells for $300-$350, while a tote bag takes as much as two to three days and can go for up to $500.

"You can't imagine how many chemicals are used in each process of regular shoemaking," said Lin. "And I wanted to make my materials as much as possible."

To make her newspaper strips durable and sturdy, Lin strengthens a cotton lining to the back, and adds a plastic coating to give them a shiny, waterproof finish. These she woven top is attached to a plastic zip-top and glued to a rubber sole. AP

LIN displaying shoes made out of recycled newspapers.

US murder suspect Amanda Knox

Prosecutor Giuliano Mignini is expected to make his accusatory request on Saturday.

Two judges and six jurors will decide the fate of Knox and Sollecito, who face 30 years in prison if convicted.

The jury is expected to begin deliberating on Dec. 4, with a verdict expected the following day in the trial that began Jan. 16. AFP

Smartphone for e-reading

WITH AMAZING EASE, readers can squeeze hundreds of books into a device that is smaller than most hardcovers, for some that's not small enough.

Many people who want to read electronic books are discovering that they can do so on the smartphone that are already in their pockets—being a whole new meaning to "phone book." And they like that they can save the $250 to $400 that they would otherwise spend on yet another gadget.

"There's readers that cost a lot of money only do one thing," said Matthew Hall, a 37-year-old planner in Texas who buys 100-120 books a month to read on her iPhone, from Apple. "I like to have a multifunctional device. I watch movies and listen to my songs."

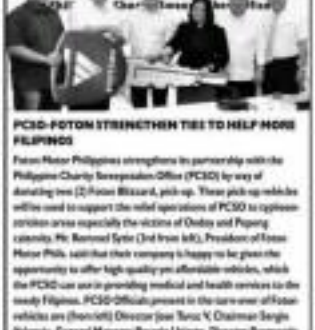
Over the last eight months, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and a range of smaller companies have released book-reading software for the iPhone and other mobile devices. One out of every five new applications introduced for the iPhone last month was a book, according to Pinary, a research firm that studies mobile trends.

All of that activity raises questions about the future of book reading for its dedicated devices like the Kindle, or in more versatile gadgets like mobile phones? Is the e-book software for phones does not appear in force on user demand for single-function e-readers, according to the Codex Group, a consultant in the publishing industry, about 1.7 million people now own one, and that number could rise to four million by the end of the holiday season.

But there are already 61 million smartphones that can run applications in the US alone. NYT

PCSO – PCSO

The partnership continues for the relief operations to calamity victims



PCSO-FOTON STRENGTHEN TIES TO HELP MORE FILIPINOS

Foton Motor Philippines strengthens its partnership with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) by way of donating two (2) Foton Blizzard, pick-up. These pick-up vehicles will be used to support the relief operations of PCSO to typhoon-stricken areas especially the victims of Ondoy and Pepeng calamity. Mr. Raimund Sytin (2nd from left), President of Foton Motor Phils. said that their company is happy to be given the opportunity to offer high-quality yet affordable vehicles, which the PCSO can use in providing medical and health services to the needy Filipinos. PCSO Officials present in the turn-over of Foton vehicles are (from left) Director Jose Tarce V, Chairman Sergio Valencia, General Manager Rosario Uriarte, Director Raymundo Roquero and Director Manuel Morato.

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

Obama tells Karzai: Deliver results

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA sent his top diplomat to Afghanistan on Wednesday to press President Hamid Karzai to deliver "measurable results" on governance and corruption as the White House prepared specific new demands to accompany an American troop buildup.

In an unannounced visit to Kabul, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned Karzai privately that future civilian aid would depend in part on how his government performs in areas like developing an effective army and curbing corruption, according to an American official. Publicly, she told reporters that Karzai had begun to tackle corruption but "not nearly enough."

The trip, coming on the eve of Karzai's inauguration for a second term after a chaotic election marred by charges of rampant fraud, represented part of a broader effort by the Obama administration to tie the pending troop increase in Afghanistan to more effective efforts by its partners in the region.

The White House is developing "clear targets" for both the Afghan and Pakistani governments, possibly with specific timeframes, as a way to signal that the American military presence will not last indefinitely, American officials said. It is not yet clear what the administration is willing to do if the targets are not met.

Among other things, the officials said, the administration will insist that Afghanistan fight corruption, speed up troop training and retention, and funnel development assistance to areas the Taliban dominate. As for Pakistan, the officials said, the White House plans to emphasize bilateral cooperation in its counterinsurgency as well as on al-Qaida and, more important, go after militant groups that send fighters across the border into Afghanistan.

Clinton's visit to Kabul, which was announced only hours before she left Washington, was the first by a senior American official since Obama announced his new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan on March 27. Clinton's meeting with Karzai was delayed by more than two hours because of bad weather, and the two spoke for only about 45 minutes before Clinton left for Islamabad, Pakistan, for talks with Pakistani officials.

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After 25 years, US talk show queen Oprah to end show 2011

CHICAGO—INTERNATIONAL TALK SHOW superstar Oprah Winfrey, who rose from a childhood of abuse and poverty to become a globally recognized star, will end her show in 2011, her production company said.

"The sun will set on the 'Oprah' show in its 25th season drawn in a chute on Sept. 9, 2011," Tim Bennett, president of Winfrey's Harpo production company, wrote in a letter to affiliates.

"The Oprah Winfrey Show," which is currently syndicated to 145 countries, has transformed Winfrey into a cultural phenomenon.

She is credited with changing the way people talk to each other, having popularized a confessional interview style that has created stresses, revelations and often tears from guests of all stripes.

She has hosted international superstars and has earned a reputation for being able to secure the most highly sought-after interview subjects at any given time.

Born into poverty in Mississippi, Winfrey is now estimated in her worth $2.7 billion and is regularly ranked among the world's most powerful women, celebrities and media personalities.

Dan Reinstein, a spokesperson for Harpo Productions, declined to comment on Thursday on why Winfrey decided to end the program.

"She's going to talk about it on the show tomorrow," he said.

There was speculation that she had decided to focus on her television channel.

OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network is a joint venture between Winfrey and Discovery Communications and is set to replace the Discovery Health Channel in about 70 million US homes.

While originally scheduled to air in 2010, getting the cable channel launched has proved "challenging" due to "management turnover and an uncertain advertising climate," the New York Times reported. AFP

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Mammogram is slipping as popular offering in US clinics

FOR YEARS, BREAST CANCER SCREENing clinics have struggled.

And that was even before new guidelines this week recommended that women wait longer to begin getting mammograms and have fewer of them.

The business of providing mammograms has been in steady decline in recent years as many clinics have opted out of the screening because Medicare and insurers reimburse them poorly. Medicare typically pays about $84 for a mammogram, and private insurers may pay an additional 20 percent or more.

But the most advanced imaging equipment costs several hundred thousand dollars, and there is constant fear malpractice lawsuits if radiologists read a mammogram but miss a cancer diagnosis.

As a result, the number of sites accredited to conduct mammography screening in the United States has dropped more than 12 percent since 2000, from 9,023 to 8,711, according to the American College of Radiology.

And for many of the hospitals and freestanding radiology clinics that do perform mammograms, the service has become a loss leader, a way to attract patients who might then receive other services.

Health insurers, including the federal Medicare program, have said this week they were unlikely to change coverage of mammograms in the immediate wake of the new guidelines, issued on Monday by the US Preventive Services Task Force.

The new guidelines recommend that women in their 40s no longer have annual mammograms and that women ages 50 to 74 have them only every other year instead of annually.

Insurers, like WellPoint, Aetna, Cigna and Kaiser Permanente Group, echoed that position, saying they based their coverage decisions on a broad array of research and guidelines from various groups, many of which, like the American Cancer Society, continue to recommend more frequent screening. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Arcilla** on course for 4th PCA title/A26

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

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Mayweather OKs Pacquiao fight talks

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

NEW YORK—FLOYD MAYWEATHER is now considering the likes of Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Cotto, two formidable foes with Top Rank for a mega fight against reigning pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao next year.

And maybe it has something to do with the numbers.

Mayweather adviser Leonard Ellerbe told the Los Angeles Times on Thursday night that they have discussed the possibility of fighting Pacquiao and that they have given Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer the go-signal to open negotiations with Top Rank chief Bob Arum, the Filipino superstar's promoter.

"Floyd, Mayweather Promotions has been discussing our options and when we're finished, we'll let you pronounce," Richard Schaefer exposur our position to Top Rank," Ellerbe, told The Times.

The development came in the heels of an announcement by Arum—who doesn't see eye-to-eye with Mayweather Jr.—that the fight between Pacquiao and Miguel Cotto, two formidable foes in Las Vegas is awaiting the 1.5-million mark in pay-per-view (PPV) buys based on recent reports only.

Outperforming Mayweather

It also follows a report by USA Today that the Pacquiao-Cotto fight, where the Filipino ring icon made history by becoming the first boxer to win world crowns in seven different weight classes, outperformed Mayweather's last fight in the box office.

Pacquiao took Cotto's WBO belt via a 12th-round technical knockout in the MGM Grand.

Mayweather also won his comeback fight after a 21 months "retirement" by outpointing overmatched Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez last December.

Both victories set up a mouth-watering potential clash between the two stars—who belong to rearing camps—next year.

"It's no secret the camps don't see eye to eye, but this is a bigger deal. Boxing," Ellerbe told the LA Times. "We understand the magnitude of this.

"But it's no secret who's the biggest star and draw in boxing."

The PPV numbers may scramble Ellerbe, though.

Over 1 million buys

In an interview with popular sports site Fanhouse, Arum revealed that the early PPV numbers released on the Pacquiao-Cotto bout have reached "over a million and under 1.5 million buys—and that's without all of the previews being reported."

"There're not really accurate yet, but all that we can say with absolute certainty is that Pacquiao-Cotto was the biggest, revenue-producing event on pay-per-view for the entire year," said Arum.

"And that surpasses all of the UFC, Everything. Any event. It's the biggest event of the year from the standpoint of revenue being generated."

Arum said PPV sales figures from Washington D.C., Baltimore, California—and "a lot of Connecticut, too"—have not been reported.

"But based on what we have, we can make that statement—that Pacquiao-Cotto was the biggest revenue-generating PPV of the year," he said.

Comcast Spotlight was the area satellite provider that reported an overload of demand from its customers.

502.4M PPV sales

Arum said total PPV sales of Pacquiao-Cotto was about 502,425,000.

Tickets, today, USA Today reported that Pacquiao-Cotto earned $56.6M (million on 15,476 tickets sold), outperforming Mayweather-Marquez (about 12,000 on tickets sold and box-office gross (about $6 million).

PPV sales show superstar Manny Pacquiao commands fight fans' solid support.

Fiery Whoppers corral anemic Barako Bulls

By Marang B. Castillo

BURGER KING USED A HOT START AND a steady finish to trounce Barako Bull, 102-88, last night and notch a second straight victory in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

Starting off guard Rodjay Barroga scored 17 points and Carlo Sharma added 14 as the Whoppers romped to 33-8 in the standings while dealing the listless Boosters a fourth straight loss for a 2-6 card.

"Defense and free throw shooting—we have improved on both departments the last two games," said coach Ong Golez when asked about the key to the Burger King turnaround.

"We hope that is the right formula for us. We need to fine-tune the formula that is working for us right now because our next game is a tough game, against Talk 'N Text."

Rookie gunner Jayson Boguina Mocon drained scoring binges with Paolo Hubalde for the Boosters with 17 apiece.

And even with three more players scoring 10 or more, their bosses weren't enough to save Barako Bull from having the second longest losing streak in the tournament.

Only the strike-dwelling Rain or Shine Hamsters, who opened with six straight losses and are now at 1-7, have lost more games in a sizing than the Boosters.

Meanwhile, San Miguel shook off a seventh straight win when the Beermen collide with the Coca-Cola Tigers in a road game presented by Phoenix Fuel at the Cebu Coliseum in Cebu.

A victory by the fourth-ranked Beermen in their 5 p.m. clash with the Tigers would establish the tournament's longest winning streak. Alaska, which was playing Talk 'N Text at presstime, shares the record with San Miguel.

The Beermen have won all their games by twin-digit margins and by an average of more than 15 points. And that certainly doesn't look good for the Tigers, who will come into the game sporting three back-to-back losses.

Burger King jumped out of the gates hard and established its will early, racing to several double-digit leads on the way to closing out the half with a 49-35 spread.

Hubalde scored 10 of his output in the third period for the Boosters, who managed to outscore within nine at the end of the third and to with 69 early in the fourth.

But the Whoppers steadied themselves just as quick with eight players scoring in the remainder of the fourth period, including a rare four-point play from Tiger Bilboven which made it 92-68, with eight minutes left to play.

In a no-boxscoring game earlier, Smart Gilas romanced the Painters, 98-80, with Gilas Basketball Sirao 23 points and Japeth Aguilar adding 15.

BURGER King power forward Mark Isa (left) shares a foul in this rebound play from Ogie Menor of Barako Bull.

PATRIOTS pace Dieon (right) and Elmar Espinia control the rebound versus the Dragons.

RP Patriots eye piece of lead vs BritAma

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE PATRIOTS SET OUT TO ride another strong defensive effort in their bid to grab a piece of the lead today in the Asean Basketball League.

"Our success depends largely on how we carry out our defense," said Patriots coach Louie Alas. "If we can play good defense, I'm sure our offense will recommence."

The Patriots will forge a tie for the top spot with the idle Singapore Slingers at 5-1 if they roll to their fourth straight victory against the visiting Indonesia Satria Muda BritAma.

Gametime between the Patriots and Satria Muda BritAma is 6 p.m. at the FIBA Flying V Arena in San Anan, Admission is free.

STANDINGS	W	L
Singapore	4	1
Philippines	4	1
Indonesia	3	2
Malaysia	2	3
Brunei	1	4
Thailand	0	4

GAME TODAY
(FIBA Flying V Arena)
4 p.m. — Philippine Patriots vs Indonesia Satria Muda BritAma

The Patriots pulled off a highly physical 75-67 triumph against Satria Muda BritAma in the Dec. 10 kickoff of the region's fledgling home-and-away club tournament in Jakarta.

"Crowd support will be a big factor, especially since that native playing in our own turf," said Alas. "But again, our success will depend on how we play defensively."

Jason Dixon and Brandon Powell expect another tough encounter after the two American imports fueled a late rally to lift the Patriots, 73-63, against the Kuala Lumpur Dragons in the Malaysian capital last Tuesday.

The 6-foot-10 Dixon delivered his best performance yet by hauling 17 points and grabbing 16 rebounds in that match.

Alas also expects his young cagers Nonoy Baclao of UAAP champion Ateneo and University of the East's Elmer Espinia to step up a notch along with veteran guards Frolino Baguion and Vhenon Yturbe.

"We have to play smart and aggressive to win," said Alas.

The Indonesians, running third at 3-1, have been awaiting behind lanceman Jeepers Alexander Herman and Golden Miller and Filipino import Ismay Rupa.

But aside from avenging their loss against the Patriots, the Indonesians aim to rebound from an opening-night meltdown in their last outing against the Slingers.

The Indonesians blew a 14-point lead in the final three minutes for a heartbreaking 63-59 home-court loss to the Slingers last Saturday.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Lady Eagles gain playoff vs Lady Tams

By Cedrill P. Tupas

STUNNED HERE DOWNED ITS SHUTTERS IN THE FIFTH SET TO RACK OUT A thrilling 25-11, 15-10, 17-25, 19-25, 15-13 victory over University of Santo Tomas last night and keep its semifinal hopes alive in the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference.

With the victory, the Lady Eagles finished at the quarterfinals with a 7-5 record, tied to do with Far Eastern U and Adamson, which overwhelmed St. Benilde, 25-17, 25-15, 25-18, in the first game at the FIBA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

But the Lady Tigresses gained outright entry to the semifinals owing to their superior quotient, leaving Ateneo and PEU in step is out for the No. 4 spot in a one-game playoff tomorrow.

Skipper Angela Benting pumped in 21 hits and finished with 20 points for Adamson, which also drew a sideband 20 points from Pauline Gonzaga and Jocelyn Quiñola.

Santo Tomas and San Sebastian finished the top two spots in the semifinals this year on Sunday.

STANDINGS	W	L
UST	10	1
San Sebas	9	2
Ust.		
Adamson	7	4
FEU	7	5
Ateneo	7	5
U. Benilde	2	9

GAME TONIGHT
(MOA Flying V Arena)
4 p.m. — PEU vs Ateneo

The defending champion Lady Tigers will face the Lady Tamaraws in a best-of-three series, while the Tigresses clash with the winner of the Ateneo-PEU showdown.

"What matters is not is the fact that we avoided elimination," said Ateneo coach Chot Medina, after the Lady Eagles pounced on the Tigresses only three seconds into the tournament.

Ella Gaiagdi fired three of the last seven points and the Lady Eagles pulled away from an 11-all deadlock to prevail in an hour and 43 minutes.

PEU, the Tigresses showing up with only seven players, the Lady Eagles dominated the first two sets.

UST turned the tide in the third as opposite Alex Mateo, who came in late after attending class, lifted the Tigresses from an early 0-8 deficit.

UST coach Cornel Dela Sierra defended the late arrival of some of his players, saying they needed to attend their classes.

"We didn't give the game away," said Dela Sierra. "They wouldn't afford to miss more classes with the semifinals coming up next week and the UAAP season coming in December."

Angeline Gervacio typooted for Ateneo with scorers high 23 points, including the kill that clustered an 11-all tie in the fifth set, while Gaiagdi added 17.

BEA Pascual (center) and Jem Porter of Ateneo bid a soft shot by Glen-Aia Santiago (left) of UST in the second set of yesterday's match.

Buddies out to buck Liga trend

THE BIGGEST PHILIPPINE BUDDIES TRY TO buck a trend when the Liga Filipinas Conference-B Super Leg kicks off Monday at the New Cebu Coliseum.

Playing their first conference yet, the Buddies are out to end the reign of southern teams in the country's premier community-based league.

Defending national champion Mindanao Universal Movers and the unbeaten M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Cebu Oilers remain in the hunt, along with the Buddies' fellow Luzon-based mates Quezon Red Oilers and Pasay-Laguna Shellflyers in the first round, reverse-clay-round.

The Buddies, mentored by Allen Gregorio, earned an outright berth in the Super Leg after earning a second-best 3-6 points in the 10-leg Tour Phase.

"The Superleg is an exciting innovation this conference," said Liga president and CEO Sol Aldo. "And we are just so happy that the best from all over the country are represented in Cebu to determine who is truly deserving to win the Liga crown."

The Miler ruled the first conference last year, before the Movers captured the Grabe since it crown early this year.

Reported on hand the Buddies' spare bid are Aquino Leg MVP Jonathon Aldave, guard Ian Manuel, forwards Al Magpayo and new recruit Edwin Bunes.

"We are at our peak right now," said Gregorio. "Of course, there is still the bigger prize in the Super Leg and I don't see reasons in Cebu."

Games will be aired on a delayed basis on Aldo Sports starting next week.

The Red Oilers, who ousted the MP Warriors, 25-22, 25-20, 25-11, in the wild-card round to advance to the Super Leg, will again rely on Liga Filipinas Jewel Cantoneros, Bob Labagala, the returning Helen Menalgoan and rookie Erik Sagistan.

Jasmine W. Payo

SPORTSWATCH

Wakeboarding demo on

FIVE-TIME WAKEBOARDING world champion Parks Bonifay will headline the opening of Philippine Wakepark in Alabang, Muntinlupa today, and everyone is invited to attend as "Wakeskate Weekend Grand Bash."

The wakeboarders—Nick Lavoie (UK Wakeboard World Champion 2008), Kim Ji Young (Korea, Asian Wakeboard Champion 2008), Shane Watson (US Red Bull Wakeboard Rail Rider Champion 2007), Shane Bonifay (US, voted as 2008 Wakeboard Most of the Year) and Phillip Soares (US, King of Rail 2009)—will demonstrate wakeboarding stunts in a Tarzan Wakeboard pool set up along Filinvest Avenue. A skate park will be open to the public.

Elorde boxing bout Nov. 28

METROGAMES ATTOP OF ELORDE boxers clash in the Ultimate Knockout Challenge (UKC) Event Series starting on Nov. 28 at the Elorde Sports Complex Grand Ballroom in Social, Parañaque. The event dubbed as "UKC9: Road for Glory" will feature over 90 pro-qualified bouts, including elite amateurs, national team, martial arts and kinds that fighters. Organized by the Elorde Boxing Group, the fight backed by Omega Fan Killer, PCSO and Del Monte Fit 'N Right aims to promote boxing among the youth and expose them to local competition. Participants have been picked from the different Elorde gyms in Metro Manila. Tickets cost at P1,000 each.

Record seen in Rambulan derby

THE "35 M MATSHAWOE RAMBULAN 5-Flag Derby" remains on track to produce a new record as over a thousand runners from different parts of the country had been listed for the event this year at the San Juan Coliseum.

As of Nov. 18, the number of entries reached to 1,345 with 23 more elementary students competing. Entries may be handed at SJC until Nov. 20, Dec. 2 and 3 (fourth batch).

The semifinals round will be staged at SJC today for the qualifiers in the Nov. 18 and 19 eliminations.

Pacquiao and the magic of disobedience

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

DID MIGUEL ANGEL COTTO, WHO scored with a killer punch—a jarring left uppercut—connect the single biggest punch of the night during his fight against Manny Pacquiao?

There are a few other questions on that thrilling bout that may never be answered.

In fact, many fans are still puzzled as how Manny Pacquiao won his biggest fight by shelving the original fight plan.

There is that the suggestions of Pacquiao's talent and achievement may never be aptly fathomed without first acknowledging that he disobeyed orders in order to score the greatest win of his career.

+++

The original plan was for Pacquiao to have a smoke-and-slugfest.

That was a main part of what trainer Freddie Roach had laid out for a spirited fight.

Pacquiao failed to carry it out because Cotto beat him to a jumping last start.

Pacquiao, in short, was put on the defensive, a stance where he was usually not at his best.

Stalled and often on the receiving end, Pacquiao ordered the problem on the spot.

+++

It's no longer new. His fling about Pacquiao dropping the fight plan.

But the details were pulled out from the doll' after Roach announced Pacquiao's grade for his last fight.

Roach gave Pacquiao a 10—a perfect rating.

But in the same breath, Roach claimed that Pacquiao failed to fight the perfect fight.

+++

"I gave him a 10. At the same time, he deviated from the fight strategy," Roach told an interviewer in a report posted at Philboxing.com yesterday.

Roach was direct to the point when he said the Cotto conquest was Pacquiao's biggest win.

He added that it was also Pacquiao's hardest fight.

However, Roach failed to confirm or deny if Pacquiao would've scored an easier win executing the original fight plan.

+++

What cares are clear, though, was how Pacquiao took an unneeded and very dangerous path in order to clinch a boxing summit hitherto unreached by him.

Ordered to dash and slip out, Pacquiao decided to meet Cotto frontally starting the third round.

The result were a knockdown, which initially appeared like a slip after Cotto quickly sprang back on his feet.

Do take note that the third round opened with that killer uppercut to the Pacman's jaw, whose aftershocks mustve been felt in the hotel room where Pacquiao's mother, Dionisia, was watching and praying, all the way to Gentian in Mindanao.

+++

By the fourth round, Cotto was still full of fight, an undergoing killer bull, until Pacquiao stood firmly and clinched the foe with a tightening left to the head that sent the Puerto Rican down on all fours.

Shaken irreversibly, Cotto was methodically dismantled until his spirit also melted in the final rounds, where all he did was run and backpedal.

Actually, there was a point close to the end, before the referee stopped the merciless mauling, when Pacquiao stayed on the ropes and lassoed the Cotto to come in, try and game him.

This was a big no-no in the original Roach plan.

But there was no telling Pacquiao what to do after he doubled to take the ball by the horns.

LAST VICTORY RIDE: Coach Ato Badolato

Coaches Badolato, Black, Agustin head collegiate caging awardees

By Jasmine W. Payo

AFTER CAPTURING AN ILLUSTRIOUS four-decade career with another championship, retired coach Ato Badolato will receive a Lifetime Achievement award in the 2009 Collegiate Basketball Mentor Awards Party presented by Smart Sports and the UNAP/NCAA Press Corps tomorrow.

Badolato steered the San Beda Red Lions to their 17th overall championship against the Lyceum Spartans in this season's NCAA juniors finals.

He will share the spotlight with Coach of the Year winners Norman Black of Ateneo and San Sebastian's Art Agustin in the annual event set at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Ramayana Suba in Greenhills.

Rabeh Al-Hussini of back-to-back UAAP champion Ateneo and Jimbo Aquino of NCAA titlist San Sebastian lead the Collegiate Mythical Team which also includes University of Santo Tomas' Dylan Ababou, Jose Bardi's John Wilson and San Beda's Sean Daniel.

Other awardees are Ateneo's Jai Reyes (Dapper Award) and Nonoy Baclao (Mr. Intangible), University of the East's Paul Lee (Giant Downfall) and Elmer Espinia (Defensive Player of the Year), San Sebastian's Carlos Alcantara (Most Improved Player), Letran's RJ Jazul (Scholar Athlete) and Pat Sumaya (Interview's Mikrech Ramos (Deadline Issues).

Long-time UNAP board member and UE athletic director Teresa Perez and JRU coach Jayson Nocum will receive posthumous awards for their accomplishments in the country's premier collegiate university leagues.

The annual event is also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Accel, PSGM Phyng-V and Sun Mopet Corporation.

LAKERS center Pau Gasol (left) goes up a shot against Chicago's Joakim Noah. —

Gasol back, leads Lakers past Bulls

LOS ANGELES—PAU GASOL HAD 24 POINTS AND 13 REBOUNDS IN HIS season debut as the Los Angeles Lakers downed the Chicago Bulls, 110-93, in the NBA on Thursday.

Kobe Bryant added 21 points while passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on the Lakers' career scoring chart.

The Lakers finally had their full starting lineup intact. The defending NBA champions had little trouble with the Bulls, opening a 20-point lead in the third quarter before leaving them be the eighth time in nine meetings.

Gasol sat out the Lakers' first 21 games with a right hamstring injury.

Derrick Rose had 30 points and John Salmons scored all 16 of his points in the first half for the Bulls, who lost on the second stop of a taxing six-game road trip.

With a free throw in the third quarter, Bryant passed Abdul-Jabbar (19,2701 for second place on the Lakers' career scoring list, leaving him trailing only Jerry West (25,192).

Hornets 110, Suns 103

In New Orleans, Peja Stojakovic hit seven three-pointers during a 25-point, 12-rebound performance to New Orleans' victory over Phoenix.

Devin Harris and rookie Marcus Thornton each scored 19 for the Hornets, who won their second straight under new head coach Jeff Bower.

The score was 99-96 when Stojakovic and rookie Darren Collison hit back-to-back triples, and New Orleans held on from there.

Jazz 90, Spurs 83

In San Antonio, Deron Williams scored 22 points and Utah ended its decade-long misery in San Antonio.

Utah hasn't won more a regular season game in San Antonio since 1999, a losing streak that spanned 20 games. Paul Millsap added 20 points for the Jazz.

Tim Duncan scored 21 points, and he has seldom seen San Antonio string up at the start of a season like this.

The Spurs were stopped in their tracks early in the first quarter, but they have their best losing record after 14 games since 1996. AP

Prolific Paul says Hornets hungrier this season

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

NEW YORK— THE NEW ORLEANS Hornets may be in trouble early in the 2009-10 NBA season, but injured playmaker Chris Paul still has high hopes for the team.

The Hornets are said that the Hornets need to strengthen their chemistry to be able to compete against the teams in the Western Conference, a list of which boasts of third-seeded Portland and defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

"There are a ton of great teams in the West, there really isn't an easy opponent," Paul said in an interview e-mailed to the Inquirer through NBA.com. "Everyone but maybe Golden State we battled a great test night in and night out."

The Hornets also made key moves for the season, the biggest of which brought in Emeka Okafor from Charlotte in exchange for vice-starting center Tyson Chandler. After a six-game start to the season, the Hornets also fired coach Byron Scott, replacing him with GM Jeff Bower.

Paul said the team's chief new goal is to get comfortable with each other and form a bond. "We have a lot of new guys on the team, so developing that chemistry is important."

Paul said he had prepared hard for the coming season, especially since he feels he's stronger and quicker this year when he had to fulfill national team duties.

"[I] worked on a ton and spent time with a trainer," he said. "I worked on a lot of core exercises, played a lot of basketball and lifted weights to finally say some. I am always trying to find ways to improve my game, whether it be shooting, ball handling or strength."

After tripping to most high-expectations last season, Paul and the Hornets crashed out of the playoffs in the first round, for the disappointment, he said, only made the team more determined to make a deeper push into the postseason this time around.

"It made us hungrier, we didn't like the way we lost in the first round but season-ender put a sour taste in our mouth. We are determined to improve the season and get better as a team."

Paul underwent a magnetic resonance imaging test yesterday and it confirmed a left ankle sprain, an injury he sustained in a game against Portland last week after landing on the foot of Raef Blazers center Joel Przybilla.

Paul has appeared 114 games so far and averaged 22.8 points per game (16th in the NBA), 9.2 assists (2nd) and 1.7 steals (16th) per game. He was also shooting .453 from beyond the arc, the best in the league.

CHRIS Paul lies on the court in pain during the first-term game against the Trail Blazers on Nov. 13 at the New Orleans Arena. —

Ochoa paces season-ending tour; Wie out

RICHMOND, TEXAS—MICHELLE WIE WITHdrew from the season-ending LPGA Tour Championship because of a sprained left ankle on Thursday, a few hours after Lorena Ochoa shot a 6-under 66 to take a one-shot lead over Bobby Rankin.

The 20-year-old Wie, fresh off her first US LPGA victory last week at Ochoa's tournament in Mexico, shot a 72 in the afternoon. She limped through her round on the golfer that she sprained during the Bellevue Cup in August.

"I wanted to do everything I could do to fight through the pain," Wie said in a statement. "It bothered me last week in Mexico, but I was able to play through the pain. I realized today that I wouldn't be able to continue."

Wie drew the largest galleries at the Houstonian Golf and Country Club and she was 1-under through 12 holes. Her ankle gave way on the 13th tee, and she marched backward, eyes low on what was the rough and took her first bogey.

She later over to apparent pain on No. 14 and dropped again, hitting her tee shot to the par-3 17th. Wie attacked her right leg and yelled an obscenity as she ball sailed right and collected the water. She made a double bogey to eight-back to even par.

Wie went for treatment after her round and said there about an hour later.

Ochoa shrugged off another bogeyless way before at 5-over 77, tied with seven others. AP

F1 champion Button joins McLaren, agrees to pay cut

LONDON—FORMULA ONE CHAMpion Jenson Button admits he has taken a pay cut to join last year's runners-up Lewis Hamilton at McLaren next season to make the move from Brawn for a new challenge.

A day after the move was announced, Button said on Thursday it would be strange being a rival to Hamilton after seven years although his former team, which also won the constructors' title, will now be under the same ultimate boss, Ross Brawn, the team's chief executive.

Button said he would be earning more at Brawn but it would be a challenge going up against Hamilton in his own team environment. AP

RP mixed martial arts bets seek redemption

MANILA—EDMUNDO SANGINO and Glicio "Real Boy" Galvez try to reclaim their titles when they tangle against equally dangerous foreign rivals today in the Gold 49-International Fidility Combat Championship dubbed as "Onslaught" at the World Trade Center.

Sangino, determined to follow the footsteps of teammate and featured Lukay Rhodes fighter Edmund Polgaraj, battles Jessie "The Hombre" Cruz of Iloilo 22 fights to one of four title encounters.

This will be the first time for 5-foot-6 Sangino seen action in a ONE Championship bout since his upset win of his time in the Philippine arenas, team the past three years but the pride of Baguio City remains as explosive and resilient as before.

The 27-year-old Sangino, who holds a 5-1 win-loss record, is known for his powerful leg kicks and superior takedown skills but he will have his hands full against the 24-year-old Cruz who boasts of a 19-4 record, including 11 in ONE organized tournaments.

Aside from the four title bouts, mixed martial arts fans will also witness six big supporting bouts, including the grudge showdown between Outstanding Pabron against Hideo Morikawa and Jhun Tingson and Mags Gonzalez.

Balbrin, on the other hand, is willing to get back at Jeff Sanding champion Chong Tie Quan of China as when they collide in the cool down-type class of the event supported by Adam's FB, Globe Telcon, Mo'Bon Pinoy & E-Games.

YOUNG CHAMPS The rivalry between Ateneo and La Salle continues in the ongoing Mico-sponsored Best Center's MCH regional finals being held in Baguio. Among the contenders for the Small Basketball of the Philippines crown are regional champion Ateneo (MCH), Marikit College-Lucena (Luzon), Ateneo Iloilo (Visayas) and Ateneo de Davao (Mindanao). La Salle is the Pasay-ville MCH title is

NAVY TORPEDOES GRINS IN LBC-UFL CUP

The LBC-UFL Cup is well underway, with quarterfinals soon approaching. After a fortnight break in matches, young team Alabang Grins Orient Freight went up against seasoned veteran team Navy Selects.

The Grins' youthful stamina aided them well as the hard offensive line of Navy kept pushing for possession. Minutes before the first half ended, the Grins committed a defensive error and Navy man Josie Alle Carreros scored on the 43rd.

Emboldened by the shot, the second half saw the Navy men getting rough when Grins striker Rafael Millan was tripped in the box on the 56th minute. Penalty shot was taken by Floriano Pasilan, Jr. who coolly chipped it in with a low grounder.

Had the game ended with a draw, both teams would be guaranteed a seat in the next round. Navy made it clear however to the Grins that the field is no place for little boys as Navy striker Reydrick Villran doubled the Navy score in the 76th minute securing the win and assuring the team the top spot in Group A. With the loss the Alabang Grins Orient Freight find themselves in a must win scenario vs. United South 2Go.

For updated standings, team statistics, and match schedules log on to http://www.football-alliance.ph today!

Editor Teddyboy B. Molmisa • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

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Arcilla on course for 4th PCA crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOHNNY ARCILLA showed too much pride in beating young gun Francis Casey Alcantara, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, even as unheralded 59-ltalian Marc Reyes scored a 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 shocker over RP Dante Caguioa PJ Torres yesterday to join it up in the men's singles finals of The Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open tennis championships.

Arcilla, 29, yielded the first set against the 17-year-old Australian Open juniors doubles champ, but gathered steam down the stretch, thwarting strenuous tests the youth he played on the many and slippery stadiumsets to pull off the win in two hours and 50 minutes.

But the four-time champ collapsed on the shelloncourt after the match, citing a painful groin, the was immediately attended to by resident medics and unaccounted out.

"It was painful, but [by today," said Arcilla after a few minutes. "At least I still have a day to rest [before finals on Sunday]."

For a while there, it looked like the country's oldest tennis championship is setting a changing of the guards as the 20-year-old Reyes stunned Torres, while Alcantara took the first set in the other semis.

Arcilla, however, just wasn't about it as happy as he hoped with Alcantara by the net, sticking for crisp shots from all corners and chilling the elbows of the youngster's sharp forehands.

Alcantara even broke him in the first game of the third set, but that was all Arcilla would allow as he wisely placed the ball well beyond reach.

"It was tough, he's [Alcantara] improved a lot," he said.

He will go for his fourth straight men's singles title later against yet another fresh blood who caught the crowd by surprise by whipping the second seed Torres in this event sponsored by Colosseum Condos, Pure Pedals and Pilatus.

The 5-foot-10 Reyes, who packs a booming forehand, easily have easily taken the match when he went 4-1 in the second set. But he let up a bitand that he rushed things up.

"I wanted the match to end already," said Reyes to Filipinos.

"I wasn't able to control myself, made errors and then suddenly the [e lines are ruined," added Reyes, the son of a Filipino couple who immigrated to Milan from San Jose, Nueva Ecija.

But there was no denying Reyes the match as he flustered Torres, 24, with jumping forehands to break him in the ninth game. It was an all-Reyes show from then on.

"I knew I owe four him and I expected to win the finals," said Reyes who revealed that he's eyeing out for the Davis Cup team.

It was the first time for Reyes to play a tournament in the Philippines, but he's a regular campaigner in tournaments events in Italy.

Torres, a long-time RP mens stalwart and second seed here, offered no excuses in losing to the quicker and spunkier Reyes.

JOHNNY Arcilla will be seeking a fourth straight PCA Open crown tomorrow against an unfamiliar foe.

Ravena's OT heroics lift RP U-16 five past Japan

By Jun Navarro

KEVIN RAVENA HAS A KNACK FOR knocking down huge baskets when the game is on the line.

The UAAP juniors Finals MVP from Ateneo contributed seven points in overtime to lift Nobis Team Philippines past Japan, 64-59, on the start of the Fiba Asia U-16 Men's Championship Thursday at the Bandaraya Stadium in Penang, Malaysia.

Ravena, son of former PBA rookie of the year Bong, tallied 23 points on top of five rebounds and two assists for the Sentinels, who had to neutralize Japan's spiking in the closing minutes anchored on the game-long brilliance of Tadanao Tano.

Almost during the camping encounter with the RP team in Cebu last week, Tano turned out to be the secret weapon Japan had been concealing all along.

"Good thing Kiefer carried on through when we needed a leader," said RP coach Eric Altamirano of his pureal guard who led the Ateneo Eaglets in back-to-back championship in the UAAP.

The Nationals, however, will be facing Kazakhstan and Bahrain prior to the quarterfinals tomorrow whichare an important game from their memory.

Point guard Gotovich Lahyag can suffered from a suspected MCL tear in the opening minutes and could miss the entire tournament, which offers two slots to the Fiba-Asia U17 World Championship in Hamburg, Germany next year.

"We are a quick team because of him," said Altamirano. "He will be a big loss, but his health is our top priority."

Team Philippines obliterated Japan, 71-59, in their last meeting during the Nobis Invitationals in Cebu City that July since, a more aggressive and prepared Japanese squad came.

Tano's dexterity and impressive court vision pushed the Japanese ahead, 16-7, a drive they kept until the ensuing moments of the third period.

"He (Tano) really dictated the tempo and caught us by surprise," said Altamirano.

Top scorers:

PHILIPPINES (64 – Ravena 23, Nieves 9, Yap 7, Ishmael 5, Alas 5, Perez 5, Pascual 4, Baltazar 4, Lahyag 0, Arellano 0, Barkyan 0, Reyes 0)

JAPAN (59 – Tokuo 16, Tanaka 14, Maruyama 10, Iwata 6, Tao 4, Yamamoto 3, Fuji 1, Kashiwa 0, Ikehara 0, Kamiyama 0, Hashimoto 0)

Quarters: 9-10, 19-22, 36-38, 59-59 (reg), 64-59 (OT)

Chinese 4th seed, Korean dispute ITF title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOURTH-SEED LU SHAOZHOU OF China overpowered Korean fourth seed Yoo Mi, 6-3, 5-3, even as Han Seung-Hee downed ace ailing Michel Lee-pitakthanat of Thailand, 6-2, 6-3, yesterday to set up a singles final showdown in the P1.25-million ITF women's tennis championships.

Lu, who last week bowed out in the quarterfinals, was firing from all angles against Yoo in the encounter, blasting winners one after another to woo the Week 1 runner-up winner and take the match in one hour and 15 minutes.

Later in the afternoon, Korean second seed Han also made it to the finals after beating Lertpitakthichai who decided to finish the game despite a clean stomach.

The 19-year-old Han, who finished off 8th contributing star Shahrizla Berimbetov in the second round last week, took full advantage of the Thai's sheer emotions and weak returns to nail the victory.

Later, the Thai admitted that she was dizzy and losing strength but still vows down fighting.

Now the world No. 630 Han gets a chance to give Korea the second singles title in the twin tournaments. Lee Ye-Rin bagged the title last week in an all-Korean championship.

But Han will be going against the world 466th ranked Lu, whose main weapon is her left-handed forehand and double-fisted backhand.

In the doubles event, Yoo and teammate Moo Ha-Lee dispatched third seed Gaby de Waal of Belgium and Elodie Fagge Dietrich of France, 6-4, 6-3, to make the finals.

Story will go against Filipina Czarina Elise Arevalo and partner Kathryn Lehnert of Germany who walked over the injured Lee, and Kim Sun-Jung.

Meanwhile, sign-in for the qualifying for the Pilatus International Juniors Week 1 will be held at 6 p.m. tonight at the Philta office, next of ITF office in Pasay-area Estrosa.

The two-day qualifying rounds for the third ITF-sanctioned tournament will be tomorrow and Monday with the tournaments proper being off on Tuesday.

Paeng: Top Sportsman

HIPOLITO

MELAKA, MALAYSIA—After packing up a good fight in the 49th QuiSnooSF Bowling World Cup, four-time champion Paeng Hipolito returns to the Philippines to meet coming home empty-handed, after all.

The 52-year-old lefty, who missed the quarterfinals by only three pins despite a high 206.67 average in 24 games, was given the Sportsman Award during the victory banquet here Thursday night.

All bowlers vote for the sports-man and sportsman of the tournament. The women's award went to Siew Yoodanli's Belinda Tan.

The other RP entry, Liza del Rosario, finished sixth in the women's division after fighting back from 11th place in the qualifying round all the way to the head-to-head semifinal matches.

Caroline Lagrange of Canada took her eighth title by downing England's Zara Gillen in the finals, 2-1 (189-184, 219-191, 219-211).

Choi maintained his spectacular form from the quarterfinals to topple former champion Michael Schmidt of Canada, 2-0 (236-172, 227-208) in the men's side.

Next year's World Cup will be held in Zagreb, Croatia from Oct. 10 to 22.

COURT BEAUTIES Miss Earth 2009 candidates from Bicol (left) and Liberian join a recent badminton friendly match at the Ynares badminton center in Mandaluyong.

RUNNERS organizers supervise of the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig during the 2009 Team Run last Nov. 15.

Fit 'N Right run tomorrow at MOA

SOME 4,000 RUNners will assume the starting gun tomorrow in Eight Day Manila Dark To Be Fit 'N Right Challenge Fun run at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay.

The inaugural 5k challenge participants to adopt a 30-minute aerobic exercising there to help fight overweight. They with their 7700 registration fee in the 3K, 5K and 10K events.

"We want to promote fitness among Filipinos," said Ed Dennis, president of the organizing Creative Entrepreneurs Management Corp.

13th Dancesport nat'l finals Nov. 29

The DANCESPORT COUNCIL OF the Philippines Inc. (DSCP) will finally stage its 13th National Championships on Nov. 29 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, more than a month after its original schedule was postponed due to Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

DSCP president Becky Garcia said 400 participants from all over the country have signed up to the event supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Originally set Oct. 10 at De Ninoy Aquino Stadium, "Ondoy" forced organizers to reset their plans.

Guests and the national championships will help the association identify deserving representatives in future world meets.

International Dance Sports Federation (IDSF) licensed adjudicators from Netherlands, Australia, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Singapore, Romania and Spain are coming to oversee the event.

Mayor Lim 3-on-3 caging today

THE MAYOR ALFREDO S. LIM CUP MANILA 3-on-3 Interbarangay and Inter-school Basketball Championship kicks off today at the San Andres Complex in Manila.

A total of 120 barangay teams and 80 school teams are seeking action in the tournament jointly organized by the Manila Sports Council and the Manila Inter-Commercial Athletic Association in cooperation with the Manila Barangay Bureau, Vice Mayor Isko Moreno and the City Council.

Lim will be the guest of honor during the opening ceremony, which starts at 8 a.m.

Libo Raul O. Maroño • Asociate Libo Corres S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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Subsidies to state firms up 4.5% to ₱14.5B

Assistance in October slashed 37.6% to P1.96B

By Reinnel M. Domingo

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES TO 35 STATE-OWNED AND -controlled corporations and institutions were slashed by 37.6 percent in October as the budget deficit breached the full-year target limit with still two months to go.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the government gave out P1.96 billion in subsidies in October compared to the P3.14 billion it released in the same month last year.

About three-fourths or P1.5 billion of the subsidies last month went to the Light Water Utilities Administration.

This was the third month of the year when LWUA got subsidies, having received P480 million in July and P50 million in August.

There were only six other recipients in October, including entities engaged in industries related to housing, livelihood, transportation, electricity, health and communications.

The National Housing Authority (NHA) was allotted P151 million; National Livelihood Development Corp., P229 million; People's Television Network Inc., P100 million; and National Electrification Administration and National Railway and Transport Institute, P4 million each.

For the first 10 months, the government spent P14.51 billion in subsidies, increasing by 4.32 percent from P13.89 billion given out in the same period last year.

The top five recipients in the 10-month period were the NHA (P3.65 billion), National Food Authority (P2 billion), LWUA (P1.96 billion), Philippine National Railways (P1.72 billion), and National Housing Mortgage Finance Corp. (P900 million).

Earlier this week, the Department of Finance reported that the budget deficit hit P286.1 billion in the 10 months to October, overshooting the full-year target limit of P280 billion by 6.4 percent.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said the swelling continued to be due to weak revenue collection amid the economic slowdown.

Teves said the overspending was likely to reach P300 billion or even

CONTINUED ON B2

Ayala Land subsidiary to focus on community shopping centers

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND Inc. seeks to diversify its revenue stream by going into the positive development of community-based shopping malls that are much smaller than Greenbelt or Glorietta.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI deputy compliance officer Athena Javier Reyes said the company's board of directors has approved the incorporation and capitalization of a wholly owned subsidiary—Primavera Town Centre Inc.—which will roll out five new shopping centers by next year.

The new entity will handle the planning, development and marketing of small-format retail facilities known as "neighborhood centers" within the company's existing and planned growth centers across the country, Reyes said.

"This is in line with the company's growth strategy to expand its market and geographic reach to serve broader economic segments in more areas across the country," Reyes explained.

These malls would build on neighborhood centers are intended to offer a convenient shopping and lifestyle experience to the immediate residents communities in various growth centers. The five among Ayala's nationwide chain of neighborhood shopping centers will rise in Makati, Bonifacio Global City, Nuvali and other potential growth centers in and around Luzon.

All centers in these neighborhood shopping centers to have a maximum size of 13,000 square meters of gross leasable area—about a fifth of the provincial malls being built by the country's biggest mall developer, SM Prime Holdings Inc.

The property blue chip intends to put in P150 million in seed capital to Primavera Town Centre to fund the development of the new neighborhood centers in 2010, with another close to 40 to be added to the portfolio in each of the succeeding four years.

In the first nine months of this year, ALI's revenues from shopping centers rose 3 percent to P5.22 billion on the back of higher occupancy rates at Greenbelt 5 and Market! Market! The growth was attained despite the Ayala Center redevelopment-related closure in Glorietta 1 as well as the start-up operations of MarQue Mall in Angeles, Pampanga, which opened in mid-September.

Lines up five projects in 2010

Metrobank unit puts up forex fund

FIRST METRO INVESTMENTS CORP. THE investment banking unit of the Metrobank group, is putting up a new mutual fund company catering to investors such as opportunities for foreign exchange assets.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said its board agreed to establish First Metro Save and Learn Global Currency Fund, a mutual fund company with a seed capital of P50 million.

FMIC will provide the initial capital for the new fund, which will be registered, managed, distributed and administered by First Metro Asset Management (FAM).

FAM is an investment company adviser licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to manage and distribute mutual funds. It is a joint venture between Metrobank Group, Inc. (MBG) (35 percent by the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of the Philippines and 10 percent by the Marian (Marist Brothers) Development Foundation.

FAME is the investment manager, administrator, and principal distributor of four mutual funds: Save and Learn Equity Fund; Save and Learn Peso Income Fund; Save and Learn Balanced Fund and Save and Learn Money Market Fund. Assets under management totaled P568.4 million as of end-2008.

Mutual funds were created by financial advisers for people who have neither the time nor expertise to create and actively manage an investment portfolio. An investor who buys a share in the mutual fund gets the same percentage of return as one who gobbles up a bigger share and is widely expected to benefit from diversification and professional portfolio management.

For its part, FMIC performs three strategic functions, namely investment banking, money market operations and investment advisory. The company's principal products and services consist of underwriting, syndicated loans, project financing, asset/mutual securities and commercial paper dealerships, financial advisory/consultancy, trading and investment advisory, and short and long-term loans.

FMIC posted a 164-percent year-on-year growth in nine-month net profit to P624.2 million on record income from investment banking as well as fixed income and equity trading. Its every P1 trailing equity pumped in by investors, the company generated a 9-percent return of P0.14 for the period.

Doris C. Dumlao

Alliance Global profit up 16% in 9 months

TYCOON ANDREW TAN'S holding firm Alliance Global Group Inc. grew its nine-month consolidated net income by 16 percent to P6.7 billion from a year ago on higher profit from its property and consumer businesses.

Net income attributable to shareholders was 28 percent to P5.2 billion, fueled by a 7-percent growth in consolidated revenues during the nine-month period to P26.6 billion.

Flagship Megaworld Corp. accounted for half of the business generated during the period.

The property developer separately announced yesterday that fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. has approved the listing of its P5.5B shares in its third tranche under the 20:03 rita blue 25.

"The listing of the bonds will widen the mode of price discovery and transparency for the issuance and enable participation in the issue across all markets on PDEx," Megaworld said in its disclosure.

Meanwhile, 45 percent of Alliance Global's business came from the consumer units, principally Emperador, Distillers and Golden Arches Development Corp., the master franchise holder of global fastfood giant McDonald's in the Philippines.

The balance of 5 percent of revenues came primarily from finance and other income, which rose to P2.05 billion from P1.75 billion a year ago.

Alliance Global's cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) in the first nine months amounted to P7.4 billion, up from P6.2 billion a year ago.

Doris C. Dumlao

EasyCall posted ₱1.42-M profit in 3rd quarter

EASYCALL COMMUNICATIONS Philippines Inc. swung to profitability in the third quarter after losing more than a million pesos in the same period last year due mainly to its share in the income of an associate firm where it has a small stake in.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the pager firm-turned-information technology service provider said it posted a net income of P1.42 million in the third quarter.

"The net income was primarily due the decrease in general and administrative expenses aside from additional revenues earned for IP-based telephone system rentals," the company said.

"Another contributor is rev-

enue increase/net to come for the third quarter where EasyCall owns a 3.6 percent equity," it added.

During the third quarter, EasyCall E-Services Inc., a subsidiary owned subsidiary, recorded P1.79 million in service revenues, 24-percent higher than last year's P1.06 million.

EasyCall was originally organized as a telecommunication firm in 1989, pioneering the use of pagers in the country.

The company first ventured into the business process outsourcing sector in 1999 when it acquired the call center business of Startcom in the Philippines.

EasyCall's pager business was terminated in December 2006.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Stocks end lower on Wall St. fall

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.47 PERcent lower yesterday as investors took profits after a retreat on Wall Street, dealers said.

The composite index lost 16.32 points to 3,068.73, while the all shares index gave up 6.27 percent to 1,913.98.

Turnover was heavy with 3.91 billion shares worth P9.67 billion changing hands, while 84 issues fell, 67 rose and 16 ended unchanged.

The peso traded at 47.14/47 to the dollar in the morning.

"Looking at market valuations, investors are trying to realize their gains as early as possible to avoid risks awaiting the year-end," Ivan Hidalgo of DBP-Daiwa Securities Philippines told Bow Inter-Securities.

SM Investments fell 0.79 percent to P515, while Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. dropped 0.2 percent to P2,045.

Manila Electric Co. led gainers, adding 1.75 percent to P228. AFP

Subsidies to state ...

From page B1

P300 billion in a second-case economy.

The finance chief earlier said corresponding would reach P300/full. Just before the September October deadline in favor of the government regarding the ownership of the 24 percent stake in San Miguel Corp., privatization of which is expected to yield some P165-billion.

Still, Teves said a deficit of some billion was "well acceptable given the current domestic and global circumstances."

DISCLOSURES

Republic Glass Holdings Corp. has announced on Nov. 18 the reappointment of the accounting firm Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. as the company's independent auditor for the current year, 2009.

* * *

The board of **Bank of the Philippine Islands** on Nov. 18 appointed Cesar Bautista, senior executive vice president, as the company's chief operating officer effective Jan. 1.

* * *

The board of **Bankard, Inc.** on Nov. 18 approved the appointment of the following officers: Eric Noel E. Bautista as president and director; Nelson C. Bellosillo as corporate secretary and Rosemarie M. Tomas as chief financial officer and treasurer/ compliance officer.

* * *

The board of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** on Nov. 19 appointed Lydia B. Echauz as senior vice president and head of the bank's Institutional Banking Group.

* * *

The board of **Highlands Prime Inc.** on Nov. 19 approved the appointment of Ma. Angelica Lagunzad and Noel S. Pastor as vice president for marketing and vice president for finance, respectively.

* * *

The board of **Manulife Pinoy Inc.** on Nov. 20 elected Rosemari Javier and Jaime Gaston as directors of the company to replace Cecilio C. Valdez and Rodolfo Ma. A. Pastor, who have resigned as members of the board. Valdez and Pastor also remain as the company's treasurer and corporate secretary, respectively.

Compiled by Schatz Concepcion, G/CS/PDEX Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE
As of November 20, 2009

Landbank loans to agri, SME sectors priority rose by 18% in Q3

By Rica T. Dirimanbo

THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES increased its lending to priority sectors in the third quarter, particularly for agri-related projects, the state-run financial institution said.

In a statement, Landbank revealed that loans to its priority sectors reached P117.5 billion as of end-September 2009.

This was 18 percent higher than the P99.2 billion recorded a year ago.

The increase in the bank's priority sector loans was primarily driven by higher lending to agriculture-related projects of government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), agri-infrastructure projects of local government units (LGUs), loans to micro and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as well as for schools and hospitals.

"We have intensified our credit assistance to agricultural, livelihood, and agri-infrastructure projects that will benefit more communities in the rural areas," bank president and CEO Nilda B. Pena said.

"Moreover, Landbank continues to step up its efforts to help more of our priority clients that were affected by the recent calamities," she said.

The bank's loans for agriculture to listed projects of GOCCs expanded as of end-September 2009 to P16.5 billion from P16.9 billion.

Lending to agri-infrastructure projects of LGUs grew to P22.3 billion from P16.9 billion last year.

Banks' NPL ratio eased further in September

Nonperforming loans amounted to P81.42B

By Michelle V. Rono

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS said nonperforming loans of commercial and universal banks eased further in September, bringing down the NPL ratio to its lowest level since it peaked at 16.8 percent in October 2001.

The BSP yesterday reported that NPL ratio, which is the proportion of overdue loans to a bank's total loans portfolio, declined to 3.25 percent in September from 3.5 percent in August, and 3.63 percent in January last year.

According to a central bank report, nonperforming NPLs of commercial and universal banks amounted to P81.42 billion as of end-September, down from P83.04 billion posted the previous month and from P91.03 billion recorded in September last year.

The latest amount of outstanding loans of commercial and universal banks stood at P2.5 trillion—up from P2.4 trillion as of August, until P2.3 trillion as of September last year.

The NPL ratio peaked at 16.8 percent in October 2001 due to the spillover effects of the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s.

Since that time, banks in the Philippines and in neighboring countries have adopted stricter lending standards to improve their financial performance, central bank officials said.

Bank regulators said the lower NPL ratio reflected prudent lending standards observed by commercial and universal banks.

The decline in NPL ratio—an indication of the level of nonperforming loans to total debts—took place at a time when most banks decided to increase lending.

The central bank said appropriate lending standards of banks were a reason why financial institutions remained healthy amid a global financial crisis.

While the finances of members of most industrialized nations were hit by liquidity problems, Philippine banks remained adequately capitalized and highly liquid, the BSP said.

Excluding interbank loans, the nonperforming loans ratio of commercial and universal banks stood at 3.74 percent, better than the 3.99 percent in August and 4.55 percent in September last year.

The NPL ratio net of interbank loans was a result of the P81.42 billion in nonperforming loans and P2.16 trillion in outstanding loans, including those extended to banks.

The BSP also reported that the ratio of the banks' real and other properties acquired (ROPA) to gross assets likewise dropped, as banks were able to dispose more of their nonperforming assets. The ratio stood at 2.39 percent as of end-September, down from 2.66 percent in August and 2.96 percent in September last year.

ROPA stood at P338.39 billion, while gross assets amounted to P5.31 billion.

"The industry provided adequate provisioning against potential credit losses," the BSP said in a statement.

The central bank also reported that the reserves of commercial and universal banks allotted for potential credit losses increased to P99.59 billion from P68.2 billion in August and P97 billion in September last year.

The amount of reserves led to an NPL coverage ratio of 1.71 percent. NPL coverage ratio is the proportion of loan loss reserves to the amount of nonperforming loans.

New kid being blocked

BREAKTIME

Commodo R. Bunsol III

PEOPLE IN BEHIND THE SMUGGLING gangs against the new chief of the Bureau of Customs at the Port of Manila?

In all likelihood, if you listen to the whispers at the piers, it is a big time smuggling syndicate entrenched in the BOC.

The new BOC chief in Manila is a lawyer and engineer by the name of Angel Custodian, the former head of the bureau's BATS (Run After The Smuggler) unit.

This cute administration created the unit a few years ago precisely to help combat not only the business sector of that time described as "massive" smuggling.

From what I gathered, apparently due to the excellent performance of BATS, the Lola at the Palace handpicked Custodian for the critical Manila post.

Surely, the President wanted him in its unyielding drastic abuse the BOC's miserable collection at the Manila port in the past months.

Weirdly, less than a month after Custodian's appointment, our sources at the port are seeing a sizable increase in BOC collections, particularly at the Harbor Center operated by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

That clearly means that the BOC is finally containing smuggling somewhat. This, to the big time smuggling syndicates, is of course bad for business.

In this election time, the syndicate must be itching to raise money for the campaign of some politicos. Due to promising themselves with the future administration.

Although he has the backing of the President, this new kid on the block Custodian must be stopped from doing his job well.

What better way is there than to destroy his credibility—with the business sector and, more importantly, with the Lola at the Palace?

* * *

THE BOC operations at the Manila port are critical for the anti-administration's revenue collection.

BOC revenue amount to a little over P300 billion a year, about 16 percent of the amount is collected at the Manila port.

But the thing is, about three-fourths of the BOC's total collections come from duties on normal imports, leaving only one-fourth from "other" imports such as raw materials and consumer goods.

Those "other" imports are the items, also, "features" of smuggling-and-favors, marking alternative revenue BOC personnel. Almost all of those "other" imports pass through the Manila port.

If BOC can just plug the leaks at the Manila port, this new administration can raise a lot more revenue to speed up pressing budget deficit.

* * *

SEEING on media reports, it seems that several cases had been filed with the Career Executive Service Board, the Ombudsman and trial courts against Custodian. All cases allege more or less the same things.

Naturally, by filing that string of cases, the smuggling syndicate aimed to block the Palace appointment of Custodian.

So far, they are saying that Custodian is not qualified for his new position, since he does not have the experience in BOC operations.

I beg your pardon. This is the guy who is the architect of the business sector for having filed almost a hundred criminal cases, all involving more than P1 million in unpaid taxes and duties, when he was head of BATS.

Also, to this country, the President can legally appoint anybody at the BOC, and to be suspected if he makes the opposition "qualified."

The smuggling syndicate then must direct their stupid "qualification" beef to the Lola at the Palace instead.

Why did the even have to appoint anybody to any position, anyway, when she is only the President of the Republic?

The Office of the President actually received a letter from some groups, asking the Lola at the Palace to recall Custodian's appointment soon after she made it.

Of course, the Palace ignored the letter. That, to those in the know, should be the end of the line. Right? That's it? Case closed? Time stop is heaven, okay?

* * *

TALK in business circles has it that the Liberal Party admits is fielding the tandem of business tycoons Enrique L. Aquino Jr. and Cielito L. Habito [L] in Saturday's knockdown dinner with important figures in business.

From what I gathered, the dinner will cost the invited guests only P2,500 per plate.

That, to business people, is not the way to the Liberal Party to raise money for the Noynoy Mar campaign?

Just on the day of the election, based on an estimate of 12 million voters, the party will need more than P600 million for allowances of poll watchers.

Again, that is just on election day.

And we all know that the allowances of watchers is the least of a political campaign's costs.

Still, the Noynoy Mar dinner with business people perhaps is not intended to raise money through the cost of the dinner.

It's the donation after the dinner, brod!

3 Japan firms vie for lease of RP's Tokyo lot

Philippine officials expect P3B from the transaction

By Konrad W. Domingo

THREE JAPANESE CONSORTIA are on the shortlist of firms vying for a 50-year lease of a Philippine government property in a posh district of Tokyo.

The Philippine government expects to earn at least P3 billion from the lease of the lot in Tokyo's Fujimi district.

Finance Undersecretary Cesareo S. Legaspi said the deadline for the submission of bids had been reset to Dec. 3 from Nov. 16.

Legaspi said three groups were prequalified for the bidding, but one declined to name the companies, citing nondisclosure agreements.

The property in Fujimi district is one of three big-ticket items in the government's privatization program this year.

With proceeds from the lease, Philippine officials hope to raise a readily-available deficit, which has swelled P266.1 billion as of end-October.

This year, the government is also working on the sale of a 1.81-hectare parcel at the Food Terminal Inc. complex in Taguig City and its 48 percent stake in PHILEXCO Realty Corp.

Finance Undersecretary Jesus Sales explained that the bidding date was moved to ensure a) many bidders acquainted to participate, stressing that the Fujimi property transaction was a lease and not an outright sale.

Leasing is "allowed under the law, and unless we are restrained by appropriate authorities, we will push through with the plan," Sales said. "Right now, there is no such restraint."

She was reacting to protests against the auction, particularly from groups that want to keep the property untouched to preserve its cultural value.

A bone of contention is the ambassador's residence. Critics claim that it may have to be torn down to give way to other structures once the winning developer may want to put up its site.

"The matter has been thrashed out in the past, long before this (idea to build) was born," Sales said. "I guess [the arguments against] it is to[o] hashed."

A network of Filipino and Japanese protestors has asked the Senate to stop the bidding process for the lease of the Fujimi property, saying that the proceeds may be lost through corruption.

In a Nov. 2 letter to Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, who chairs the Senate's foreign relations committee, the Save Fujimi Property International Network said the planned bidding "is highly suspect given the coming presidential elections in May 2010."

Also, the protestors demand that any major decision related to the property must be done with full public hearing...[such as the Philippines and its lapses].

The 4,351.81 square-metre property of the Philippine government in Fujimi district is within the vicinity of the Imperial Palace, the prime minister's residence and other institutions of the Japanese government.

MICRO TRADERS TAKE CENTER STAGE
Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto (left) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Dep. Governor Tetangco join the 2009 Citi Microentrepreneur of the Year winners Annabel Bonsol (Plastique category) and Virginia Lubiguban (Handicraft category) during the awarding ceremonies held at the SM Megamall Museum.

Intex defends environmental clearance

By Rina T. Olchondra

NORWAY'S INTEX RESOURCES ASA is getting ready to defend the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for its Mindoro nickel project, according to president and CEO Arvind Gemawat.

In an e-mailed statement, the mine chief said environmental studies and public consultations were addressed "extensively" during the Environmental Impact Assessment conducted over the last year while the company was in the process of applying for the ECC.

"The company is currently preparing a submission of the requested information to the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) office," Gemawat said.

Since September 2007, Intex has conducted extensive environmental baseline and social economy studies on the island of Mindoro, it said.

The environmental baseline studies covered assessment modules on freshwater biodiversity, marine ecology, health impact, meteorology and marine quality, as well as survey and land-use study and reports on the area's geology and geomorphology, hydrology and hydrogeology and oceanography among others.

Comprehensive environmental baseline studies were socioeconomic and cultural heritage assessment studies, as well as public consultations with stakeholders.

Intex said consultations with stakeholders included a public meeting on Oct. 30, 2008 in the impact barangay of Villa Corazon in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, a public hearing conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau on May 11, 2009 in the municipality of Pola, Oriental Mindoro where the proposed plant will be located and a public consultation on May 27, 2009 in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro for feedback from stakeholders in the province.

Project manager John Nora-che also said in an interview that the company is proceeding with studies needed to secure financing that will push the project forward.

Intex has just completed its first extensive ore reserves estimate for the Mindoro nickel project. The study shows a 56-percent conversion rate from measured and indicated resources to proved and probable reserves.

A feasibility study for the Mindoro nickel project is currently in the works. The study is expected to be completed by February 2011.

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza told reporters on Friday that the ECC was suspended on that local officials in Mindoro can thrash out their concerns with Intex while the project is still in the exploratory stage. Atienza said that he cannot simply cancel the ECC as called for by some parties.

Stable FX eats into SPC Power earnings

By Amy R. Remo

PUBLICLY LISTED SPC POWER Corp. said its net income in the first nine months fell 22 percent to P838.6 million due to a substantial decline in foreign exchange gains.

In a filing with the Philippine Stock Exchange, SPC Power noted that the limited increase in revenues generated by its subsidiaries was not sufficient to offset the rise in the cost of services and other operating expenses.

The group posted a consolidated revenue growth of 33.4 percent to P1.16 billion in the first nine months, buoyed by the acquisitions of diesel power plants in the islands of Panay and Bohol.

However, net foreign exchange gains, resulting from the revaluation of dollar-denominated debts, booked by the company plunged by almost 99 percent to only P6.2 million from a year-ago level of P286.3 million.

"Net foreign exchange gains were less in 2009 because the appreciation of the Peso to a dollar increased slightly, only by 0.1 percent to P47.39 as of Sept. 30, coming from P47.52 at the beginning of the year," SPC Power explained.

To contrast, substantial foreign exchange gains were booked in the first nine months of 2008 because the exchange rate of the peso to a dollar increased by 14 percent to P47.08 as of Sept. 30, 2008, from P41.26 at the beginning of 2008," the company added.

Meanwhile, the consolidated net of services increased by 33 percent to P711.3 million in 2009 due to the additional costs incurred for the operation of the two diesel power plants beginning March this year, among others.

SPC also reported that its outright inflows from operating activities in the first nine months of 2009 were lower at P286.3 million compared to P490 million in the same period a year earlier.

"This was due mainly to the delayed collection of receivables from the National Power Corp. and payment for various spare parts and supplies related to the P76.7 million as part of the purchase and bid price of Panay and Bohol diesel power plants," SPC Power explained.

SMEs encouraged to break through IT barriers

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry and the Philippine National Information Technology Standards (PhilNITS) have teamed up to enable small and medium enterprises nationwide to harness the power of information technology to grow their businesses.

Under the Japan-funded Training Enhancement for Competitiveness in Harnessing Innovative Entrepreneurs or "Tesher" program, SMEs all over the country will be given relevant training to allow them to use information technology (IT) in their day-to-day operations.

"Upgrading the entrepreneurs' IT skills will increase SME operational efficiency," Trade Undersecretary Merlinda Cruz said in a statement. "Making small entrepreneurs adept in IT would facilitate the growth of SMEs."

According to a recent DTI survey, only few SMEs ever have, leveraging the power of IT, despite the efficiencies that advanced tools offer. Some of the barriers to SMEs' IT adoption included the lack of adaptability of IT tools for certain types of businesses, inadequate IT skills, qualified personnel, and network infrastructure, lack of budget for IT equipment and software, and concerns over the security and reliability of e-commerce systems.

The Tesher program, which started in September and would run until June next year, was piloted in Davao and La Union, where 100 SMEs from each of the two cities were given a series of trainings in the use of IT in their operations.

Apart from the theoretical aspect, the more important part of the training has to do with allowing SMEs to experience realcase IT audits as they would see how these could help improve operations in a highly competitive market environment.

PPA reports marginal growth in domestic sea travel in Q2

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO TRAVELED by sea within the country inched slightly higher in the second quarter of the year, data from the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) revealed.

Latest information from the PPA showed that total passenger traffic in the April to June period reached 14.04 million. This is higher by 1.61 percent than the 13.88 million recorded in the same three-month period in 2008.

The growth came despite continuing fierce competition for passengers coming from local budget airlines.

Sea passenger traffic remained heaviest within the Visayas, the PPA said, with the number of passengers reaching 4.83 million during the period.

This was followed by the Southern Luzon area, with 4.1 million passengers, the Northern Mindanao area with 2.5 million and Southern Mindanao with 1.96 million passengers for the period.

Passenger traffic was lightest in the Manila and Northern Luzon areas, where only 661,138 people traveled by sea.

This compares to last year's traffic numbers of 816,500 passengers from Metro Manila, 4.16 million in Southern Luzon, 2.65 million in Northern Mindanao and 1.88 million in Southern Mindanao.

These less figures are due, in part, to the fact that most travelers use land routes for moving around in these areas.

Industry watchers expect the passenger traffic on sea routes to remain relatively flat as competition among airlines pushes airfares even lower.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Man's most deadly virus

Text and photo by Charles E. Rubio

CONSIDERING that one in every 10 Filipino families have a pet dog, the campaign requiring the vaccination of at least 80 percent of dogs should help eliminate human death from rabies infection.

WHILE THE WORLD has successfully eradicated smallpox and is making headway to permanently subdue the global terror of polio and measles cases is negligible lately, there is however, one infectious disease that are still terror for able to beat head on: Rabies.

One might argue that the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and the future mutated form of H1N1 virus are just as frightening, but in reality, rabies is only the heavyweight in terms of virulence and sheer nastiness.

Rabies is the most deadly virus when it comes to mortality rate, which is 100 percent.

This is because there is no cure or effective treatment for rabies once symptoms have manifested. Death is almost certain," lamented Dr. Rudolf Quizenberry, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine Clinical Research Division and Rabies Research Group head during the closing program of the 6th Asian Rabies Expert Bureau (Areb) meeting held in Makati City last week.

New methods

Areb, composed of experts representing nine Asian countries, meets annually to review the most recent progress in finding new methods to reduce the number of human rabies deaths.

He added that with all the medical miracles that the world were blessed with fighting disease and ailments, there was never a vaccine developed to "kill" the virus that causes the deaths of 200 to 300 Filipinos annually.

"And if there is one, it would be impossibly costly and thus, impractical to use," admitted Dr. Therese Hesmathelia of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Research and Training on Viral Zoonosis, which is based in Thailand's Chulalongkorn University.

Reasonably, rabies control is still possible, not by cure but by prevention, according to Dr. Duffy. Being national program manager of Department of Health's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Preventing rabies

"The most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in the Philippines is by eliminating rabies in dogs—where 99 percent of the cases were attributed to—through animal vaccination," he stressed.

However, second cleansing and immunization done as soon as possible after getting bitten or even scratched by a suspected animal (aside from dogs, cats also cause close as one of the most common cases) could further improve prevention.

"Many people don't realize that new to positive immunization, rendering the wound vulnerable and doing once a bit to prevent rabies infection. Applying garlic, vinegar and undergoing the "tuslok" is folk medicine done by placing a dove or carabao horn over the wound) is not an option as these methods will only cause more swelling, irritation and introduction of dirt into the wound," reminded Quizenberry who added that patients who did not develop rabies after tuslok application may test be actually bitten by a rabid dog.

Replication

Once bitten or scratched by an infected dog, the rabies virus travels to the brain through nerves inside the bitten, injured tissue and then travels back through the nerves to most parts of the body.

By this time, the disease has usually damaged the brain, sometimes producing rabies and strange behavior ranging from excessive flow of human like saliva to hydrophobia ("fear of water" due to painful spasms in the throat) despite extreme thirst and biting anyone or anything within its reach.

After these symptoms have shown, death will come within a week.

"But since the virus has to travel its way to the brain, this is also the chance of victims to fight it. Aside from the immediate washing of the wound area, getting the postexposure rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin is a must and should be done as soon as possible," Quizenberry suggested.

But since there were cases when the victim—most especially children—is unable or afraid to report the biting incident, the doctor said getting the postexposure rabies immunization treatment is a must.

"When dealing with potential rabies cases, it is always best to err on the side of caution. Pre-exposure rabies immunization specialties management by eliminating the need for rabies immune globulins and decreasing the number of doses of rabies vaccine needed," she said.

Getting the preexposure rabies immunization is also beneficial to families or individuals who live in areas where rabies infection is high, or places that are far from easy clinic or hospital or others, transporting products might not be available.

Education

"Education is also important as what we have proven in several areas around the Philippines. By including the topic of rabies prevention in school subjects, we were able to achieve significant reduction—some even up to 50 percent—of infection cases," Dr. says reported.

He added that involving rabies prevention in schoolchildren educates not only the kids but their pet dogs vaccinated (that usually costs around P300) or as have the whole family vaccinated (that costs around P600 to P700 in government-run clinics and hospitals).

As an example of how effective this method is, Dessy said that the kids' preexposure vaccination program being implemented in schoolchildren in Cabuaan, Camarines Sur has resulted in no human rabies deaths this year.

Politicians, stress, heart attack and stroke

Patricia arias

MEDICAL FILES
Rafael Castillo

THE POLITICAL SEASON IS just around the corner. For those seeking national positions, the campaign has actually started long ago. Politics is a great stressor. That there is no doubt. It is such a great source of negative news for most politicians, and for a few one, it is my cue there their lives. The toll on one's health and life may not be immediate, but the prolonged sustained stress the ugly lure of politics brings may take its toll later on, even when the campaign is over and the last ballot has been counted.

Although we can ascertain the physical fitness of politicians and wannabe politicians who contend as with the basic question: "Can my heart or my body handle the rigors of the campaign?", we cannot readily determine the impact of severe stress on an individual. People vary in their responses to stress. Given the same amount of stress, one may respond positively, whereas another may respond negatively with adverse consequences on one's health.

Initially, stress may be a good stimulus that keeps one on his toes. It motivates the fight or flight response which keeps one's adrenaline high, ready to respond positively and constructively to any issue one is confronted with. However, sustained stress left to its own devices, wears out one's coping mechanisms and gradually erodes one's health. It can kill sooner or later.

Risk factor

Medical researchers are unanimous in stress increases the risk of heart disease, which may lead to heart attacks and strokes. Some even suggest that stress itself might be a risk factor, or it could be that high levels of stress aggravate other known risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes and elevated cholesterol. Some also have a tendency for eating disorders as a compensatory mechanism when under stress leading to obesity. Some resort to smoking to calm down their nerves, and this only complicates matters.

Politicos campaigns in the Philippines possess a health detrimental behavior. Sleep deprivation, unhealthy eating, smoking, a drink of hard wine here and there, political intrigues, and all sorts of negative feelings and emotions can gradually erode whatever gladness in one's health. And before the campaign, he and one partner will run for mayor in his hometown several years back. In his preassignment checkup, he passed all tests with flying colors. He was hypertensive and diabetic, but his blood pressure and blood sugar levels were well controlled with medications.

A few months into the campaign, he was rushed to the hospital with an evolving stroke. His blood pressure almost hit the ceiling, and his blood sugar was also off the charts. In fairness to him, and because of his busy schedule and with no one reminding him of his medications, he has not been taking the pills prescribed to him.

An important thing we advise politicians is to observe early signs of stress, which should tell them that they need to pause for a while and reverse the effects of stress on them. These early signs may include physical dysfunction such as dizziness, general aches and pains, grinding teeth, headaches, constipation or upset stomach, insomnia, constriction, sleeping difficulty palpitations, ringing in the ears, easy fatigability, weight gain or weight loss.

Mental symptoms include constant worrying, difficulty in time-wasting and making decisions, forgetfulness, lack of creativity and loss of sense of humor. Emotional symptoms include anger even over trivial matters, anxiety, depression, feeling powerless, mood swings, irritability and negative thinking. Behavioral signs include boredom, compulsive eating, critical attitude of others, impulsive decisions, explosive actions and increased use of alcohol or drugs.

How to relax

Equally important as learning the skills of public speaking or social networking, a politician should learn the skill on how to relax. Experts say that relaxing is a learned skill, and for it to be effective, one must make a commitment to practice it regularly.

Setting back and being quiet do not necessarily lead to relaxation. One must regularly initiate an active process in calming techniques that calm one's body and mind. Here are some techniques to help unwind:

Maintain a positive loving attitude to one's response to stressors, and one's basic needs for peace, self-awareness and thoughtful reflection.

For a politician, it also involves sincerely believing that one has the right intention in seeking whatever public office one is aiming for. If one knows too well in his heart and mind that his reasons are more self-serving than selfless service, the stress only heightens as one's subconscious mind, which can never be made to negate or cover up what one has in his mind, will commence to pick one's troubled conscience and cause emotional stress brought about by the conflict in purpose.

Moods from food

DISCOVER

Marucie Sawyer Ballon

PERHAPS IT'S TOO EARLY TO BRING THIS up, what with holidays approximating and, of course, all the food that comes with the celebrations. But then again, the information might be useful for those looking ahead to January resolutions and considering how to achieve their goals.

Australian researchers have found that a year after starting a diet, people who spread the fat they lose around their stomachs (bum thus on a low carbohydrate plan.

The team led by Grant Brinkworth of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)-Food and Nutritional Sciences, Adelaide, Australia worked with a group of nearly 169 people classified as either overweight or obese and with an average age of 50 for the study.

Each participant was randomly assigned to either: a low carbohydrate diet made up of 41 percent carbohydrates, 33 percent protein and 61 percent fat (no more than 20 percent saturated fat); or a low fat diet that was made up of 46 percent carbohydrates, 24 percent protein and 30 percent fat (no more than 8 percent saturated fat).

Over the course of a year, participants made regular visits to the researchers, who checked that the diets were being adhered to and to gauge how the participants were faring not just physically but emotionally through a series of surveys that gauged their moods and mentality—in response researchers that noted memory and the speed at which their thought processes worked.

At the end of the year, Brinkworth and his colleagues found that the participants in each group lost an average of 5.8 lb. What was surprising to them, however, was "that despite similar weight loss," the team wrote in their study, "more clear long-term many of the benefits expressed in the low carbohydrate diet group each that participants in the low fat diet achieved better outcomes."

Participants' mood

In some you're wondering, the area "better" refers not to the weight loss capacity of either diet, but rather to the participants' moods. During the first two months of the experiment, the researchers noted that the mood and memory data were similar for both groups. But at the end of a year, the researchers found that the low carbohydrate group's mood had declined while the mood of the low-fat group remained stable.

"This outcome suggests that some aspects of the low carbohydrate diet may have had detrimental effects on mood, that over the term of one year, negated any positive effects of weight loss," the researchers wrote.

The team proposed a few theories to explain the change in mood. One idea is based on the typical composition of a meal, which often includes significant portions of carbohydrates in the form of bread, pasta or rice. The researchers suggested that since study participants in the low carbohydrate group couldn't have as much of those ingredients as they were used to, they may have felt challenged by the long-term change to their eating habits, especially if they were in social gatherings such as at parties or dining out with friends.

Keep in mind that the team's findings aren't how you will need to feel if you go on a diet, so those planning to change their eating habits for whatever reason in the coming year shouldn't rule out particular diets based on this one study alone. In the first place, only two diets were studied here. And second, mood shifts in only 20.8 after the nineteen of Christmas presents wear off and being down at school or in the office rhythms group couldn't have as much of those ingredients as they were used to, they may have felt challenged by the long-term change to their eating habits, especially if they were in social gatherings such as at parties or dining out with friends.

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The study was published online Nov. 9 in the Journal Archives of Internal Medicine.

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'Personalized nutrition' wave of future, scientists say

By Tessa H. Solante

THE MODERN WORLD IS spending a fortune just to keep its citizens out of sickbeds. According to reports of a country's Gross National Product is spent just on treating chronic diseases, a figure not just representative of the United States but all other countries that follow Western lifestyles.

This has led scientists to predict that soon, governments will realize that it would be much more cost-effective to spend on preventive healthcare than to just treat diseases at their onset.

And with the exponential developments in genetic science, the arsenal for preventive health, which include lifestyle modifications and nutrition of intake, is rapidly diversifying.

Biochemist Carl E. Rehnberg, president of Nu-Life Health Institute, revealed so much to Success Health in a recent exclusive interview. He was in the Philippines last week to promote a diet line of the processed and fast foods and users of nutrition-rich plant foods, a stress-free mind, a healthy body and the health benefits of organic grains grown on nutrient-rich soil devoid of pesticides.

Nutrilite, which celebrates 75 years of experience in the health and nutrition industry, held a two-day "Best of Life and Fitness Nutrition" expo at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall.

Rehnberg, 53, who still engages in various athletic activities, said he became a Nu-Life client when his parents led a healthy lifestyle and had been taking Nutrilite supplements even before he was conceived. He is the son of Nutrilite founder Carl F. Rehnberg. The Nutrilite historical time line indicated that the brand was South America's first multilevel marketing company in 1934 as Companhia Vitaminas Inc. It was renamed Nutrilite Products a few years later.

Rehnberg added that the role of phytonutrients in genetics is now being intensively studied today. Nutrilite has partnered with Interleukin Genetics, a top biotech player in the United States to help identify the best exercise and health program for each individual.

Aside from this, Nutrilite institute has a research and development laboratory in Shanghai, China, where to maintain 25 scientists for the study and development of Asian medicines and preventive nutrients of plants and herbs.

This food supplement giant has in its roster 100 scientists and researchers developing over 146 new plant concentrates with different botanical compounds. Some of its organic farm facilities are located in Brazil, Mexico, California and Washington.

John Lindorff, vice president of Nu-Life Operations (Asia), explained the company's principle of all-natural nutrients combined with the right lifestyle choices.

Its newest products are Rhodiola (a herbal supplement to boost energy and mental alertness), Setiva (a reduction-control and PHASE (a drink that helps avoid starch to burn the body for light activities), all of which are made from natural, whole plant concentrates. Nutrilite is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Amway, independent business owners.

City living at its finest

By Charlen E. Bulaon

YOU'VE FINALLY GOT THE DREAM job you've been wanting. But before thinking about where or how you will spend your first paycheck, you realized there's another question you need to settle first: How will I live?

"The question of am I ready to spend a couple of hours a day traveling to work or should I get a place near my office is crucial if one intends to achieve an ideal work life balance," said Bernice Cocoltchea-Villegas, Robinsons Land corporate PR manager.

This was also one of the considerations when Gateway Regency was developed by Robinsons Land Corp.

"Gateway Regency, the fourth residential project in Northwestern Cebu, will be located right in the middle of key business and commercial establishments, for accessibility to the city's major modes of transportation also makes it an ideal starting point if you work...say in Makati or Quezon City," Villegas said.

She added that the 32-story residential condominium will rise within the six-hectare TLC-owned Cybergate City Cebu high-rise residential developments such as Due Gateway Place, Gateway Garden Ridge and Gateway Garden Heights as well as three prime office buildings—Robinsons Cybergate Center Tower 1, 2 and 3—and a sprawling IT specialty mall called Fusion Robinsons are already standing.

Gateway Regency offers a convenient option for those looking for high-quality accommodation at an affordable price where a payment scheme would allow owners get a unit for as low as P10,788 a month.

One-bedroom units are available for the single and young professionals while spacious two-bedroom units would appeal more to newly married couples or start up families.

Safe haven

"Independent young professionals working out on their own for the first time or even one of our families looking for safe haven in the city may find living in this latest masterplanned community very ideal," she said.

According to her, the exclusive zone specialization to one of the main factors involved why TLC developed this area on Pleasure Street in Mandaluyong City.

"All that wasted working time spent stuck on crowded trains and congested roads means more. Imagine the time they spent on traveling which they could have spent with friends and family," she said.

Villegas added that aside from the shopping malls and entertainment centers and dining establishments located in the area, Gateway Regency also offers various recreational activities such as a swimming pool for adults, a kiddie pool for children and children's playground that would allow families and friends to hold barbecue or picnic events.

For the active and mobile individual, the building has Wi-Fi Hot Spot areas that could "get online connected 24/7."

"For the residents of Gateway Regency can also take pleasure with the shared amenities and facilities of nearby Robinsons Land residential projects like function rooms, jogging paths and indoor fitness centers are included in the recreational facilities that are shared among Gateway Regency, One Gateway Place and Gateway Garden Heights and owners," Villegas described.

GATEWAY Regency units are perfect homes for the young urban professional and young families and a wise investment choice for metropreneurs.

UNIT design of Gateway Regency is created specifically to fit the lifestyle needs of the modern and active individuals.

Cradle-to-cradle thinking

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GENETIC engineering have caused peoples and nations to have conflicting opinions on genetically modified products such as corn.

Genetic engineering involves gene by individual genes that produce irreversible changes. It allows traits by manipulating genetic material of an organism outside of its cells and adding it to the genetic material of another. Thus hybrids or transgenic organisms are created that may defy the laws of nature.

Too cannot reverse what has been genetically altered. And since the world does not know enough about biotechnology its organisms and what harm it may cause, the possibility of irreversible ecological damage gives us a dilemma. The question arises if we are robbing future generations of the right to choose.

These are the thoughts of William McDonough, a world-renowned architect, called "Time for the Decay" by Time Magazine. He is design him to internationally known for practicing ecologically, socially and economically intelligent architecture and planning. Together with a chemist Dr. McDonough Braungart designs Chemistry-into-a-computer, the cradle-to-cradle design protocol in chemical bonding, material production, energy and materials assistance, chain production qualification and sustainability have

GREEN ARCHITREND

Arnaud's de Jersey

management and optimization.

McDonough's definition of natural systems goes further than the common notion of worm, logs, pollen bees and use resources closely the Jacobinoid principles go as follows: Waste equals food. Use current solar income. Celebrate diversity.

Design strategy

His design strategy is not simply for recycling, but to design from the outset for complete reuse.

After there is need to replace a object, a company or a city the consumer can send to the old one and it will be reconstructed into its new design without trip waste.

McDonough is called the prophet of the New Industrial Revolution.

Cradle-to-cradle thinking helps us design everything we make as a nutrient, a product or material designed for regenerative cycles. In the world of nature one organism's waste goes through an ecosystem to provide food for other living things. So too in industry, materials should circulate in a closed loop for use in a continuing cycle.

Materials coming from nature are designed to flow optimally as biological nutrients that can be safely returned to the environment after use, to nourish the soil and new growth.

Water, air, energy, high-quality synthetics and renewed resources ideally should circulate safely in ascending production, recovery and resource harvest.

The design paradigm necessitates global standards. For example, they are studying the chemistry of polymers so they can be recycled anywhere.

Clear choice

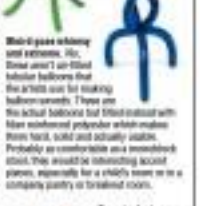
Manufacturers are encouraged to make a commitment to give consumers a clear choice about whether or not they are buying a material designed from genetically modified organisms. Textile manufacturers are reluctant to practice ecologically sound processes because about half of the world's wastewater problems are linked to the production of textile goods. Many chemicals used to dye and finish fabrics are known to have human health. Most polyester is manufactured using antimony, a carcinogen and toxic to catalyst.

Cradle-to-cradle begins at the molecular level, with the selection of healthful ingredients, synthetic products can be conceived as technical nutrients which can be returned endlessly to service without harmful effects. Materials from natural ingredients can safely return to the earth, from this perspective nature becomes food.

Each material, each product, each is meant to use or re- other of these systems, the biological and technical systems. When you mix the technical with the biological you get a mess in a biological, a material that cannot be safely and effectively composted or has other system. An example is a biodegradable carpet with PVC backing. Whereas the biological nutrient carpet goes back to the earth, the technical nutrient PVC should be engineered to remanufacture into better quality carpet.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail arnaudsjersey@gmail.com

Extreme experimentation



WHAT'S WITH THE INFLATABLE? I thought to myself as I stared looking at different photos of "innovative" pieces of furniture. Well, the world of design brings us many things. Aside from beauty and creativity we sometimes get a bit of the strange and the bizarre. Can't say pieces come from the most experimental minds. And at times, these odd creations can be extremely successful that they move mass production and non-symptom. This is not an article I intend running in for Halloween. Rather, it's an interesting parade for the creativity of others, no matter how weird.

Arabel Arreaquez
Associate

Blob it goes relaxing and extreme. Ha. Bean aren't air-filled tubular balloons that the artists use for making balloon animals. These are like actual balloons but filled instead with blue reinforced polyester which makes them hard, solid and actually usable. Probably as comfortable as a monobloc stool. We would be interesting accent pieces, especially for a child's room or in a company pantry or breakout room.

Avant-garde concept

The "Sea-dolce" lounge chair from Danish design house Studio OSORO does not a carpenter you faint that's its synonym "chic."

This chair is hand-made from 1,000 cane reed attached to its frame, which, despite its serious look, may not be all too durable after all. The "Sea-Urchin" lounge chair is meant to be hung anywhere but would probably be a good foyer piece for a rustic restaurant.

Lotus Flagship-like furniture. These children's furniture pieces are actually made of "synthetic clay" molded over a metal frame. Each piece is modeled by hand, making each piece unique, and by our local standards, quite expensive.

The "Rotary Chair" is made of easy-to-rot paper designed by Charles Kassim from Belgium. Each strip of paper was carefully glued on to the chair frame. While it makes you want to plunk into it for clichés it's, paper upholstery is not a very good idea.

Organic design goes to the "literal" level with this lamp made of cow dung. Quite an avant-garde concept. Whether you like your steak cow shit? Be signed by Harm Frankenstein and Tomas Aalen, the lamps are formed from a mixture of clay, sand and dung manure. The lamp was a part of an exhibition by the Eindhoven University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Eindhoven. Aside from this lamp, the pair designed a chair as well.

Quite expensive

Samuel Ben Rinaldi designs and creates highly original furniture like this toy storage. Part Kandi, part Susanne Street, it is made from very old paper mache and cardboard, newsprint glues and paints. For those who want to get creative and do some painting, these pieces can be bought at off-white color.

Demand for high rises up

From page B6

boom and bust as against residential condominiums. The recent one-year disturbance has helped enlarge the options of Metro Manila residences and may have spiced the area of investors in other parts of the country as well to the attraction of high-rise living."

But the trend favoring high-rise living may soon be tempered with another issue, this time geological in nature. The country's official seismic monitoring and detection agency Phivolcs recently announced a possible earthquake with a magnitude of 7 or higher on the Marikina fault reaching Metro Manila in the near future.

In comparison, the strongest recorded earthquake in the Philippines, a 7.8 temblor, occurred in Gilan, Davao in 1976, a time and place where no high-rises existed, recalled National Real Estate Association president Alejandro E. Mañalac. On July 16, 1990, Northern Luzon, including Metro Manila, was struck with a strong earthquake.

"Very few buildings in Metro Manila constructed major structural damage and there was none that I recall which collapsed here in the NCR," Mañalac said.

He added, "Our buildings can be considered just as safe as our counterparts in the countries along the Pacific Ring of Fire since we are using the same building standards. However, no one must realize that no structure is totally earthquake proof. Most modern buildings are earthquake resistant for high intensities but is that only means that it can hold and stand to minimize the loss of life and limbs but still be declared as condemned afterward."

Preferences

Mañalac explained that it would no longer be applicable to think that people prefer to live in houses rather than in condominiums, as professionals have shifted in favor of high-rise living since the younger generation mostly work and spend most of their time in buildings located in urban centers.

"Thus, chances are you might be inside a high-rise office building, inside a mall and on or under an elevated highway rather inside your low-cydesed bungalow when an earthquake happens," Mañalac said.

He said that given that the Philippines is a known earthquake zone in the Asia-Pacific region, "high-rise developers employ modern safety technologies to ensure structural integrity of buildings. Furthermore, since the large-scale quake of 1990, all high-rise buildings in the country had to be constructed to the structural integrity standards of Seismic Region 4," being high-risk seismic zones, the provisions of which are rigidly monitored and adhered to. Therefore, safety standards are maintained at a global level and are on par with buildings in other Seismic Region 4 countries."

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

POSTTYPHOON TREND

Demand for high rises up

By Yvon R. Salazar

ALTHOUGH MOST analysts would admit that it would be too early to spot any discernible trend in multistory developments, leading high-rise developers have reported a spike in inquiries and sales since the recent flooding caused by storm "Ondoy" and typhoon "Pepeng."

This was revealed by Lindsay J. Go, chief operating officer of Jones Lang LaSalle Leechiu, a financial and professional services firm specializing in real estate services.

"High-rise living has long been a way of life for urbanites—young and old—in Hong Kong and Singapore. What we are now seeing in the Philippines is a gradually increasing acceptance to high-rise living in an area with the benefits of size, security and lowcosts than flooding facing the ground dwellers. This trend is sure to continue," Go told Inquirer Property.

The offshoot of Ondoy, according to Go, has been the added attraction to multistory dwellings.

"Filipino homeowners have long had a strong attachment to land as expressed in their preference for

BUSINESS 10

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- Relaxing leisure amenities such as a swimming pool, clubhouse with multi-purpose entertainment rooms and gazebos
- 24-hour security and a well-guarded and gated entrance ensure your safety and peace of mind
- Four 5-storey mid-rise buildings on a 1.8 hectare property for a low-density community
- Highly accessible via public transport, right across Santolan LRT 2 station
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FIND YOUR OASIS IN THE CITY

Bali Oasis is a family park with lush vegetation in a dense or semi-dense CBD (something like provides design and landscape architecture)

Most developers operate the business of developing capital properties or investing within communities that offer city dwellers a secured environment and enjoyment.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of urban living, we all long for a place where we can relax and feel that nature is the one and only thing that can offer us a refreshing touch for your family and the one close loved ones even years to come.

Serenity in the city

Ultimate relaxation is worth more than enough to have the best of both worlds. Located in prime urban areas, metropolis and convenience comes together in these fantastic communities designed to provide a feeling of serenity within their hallowed grounds.

Composed of MRB and an appealing plan with lush landscaping and resort inspired amenities are the ideal community in a multi-million thousand to the upscale structures of the city townships nestled in a series of 5 stunning mid-rise buildings in the daily bustle of highly accessible, convenient and remains away from traffic, schools, hospitals, and commercial establishments.

Designed for comfortable living

Nearly only four stories each, the MRB are laid out efficiently to give maximum amount of space and privacy. Each building features spacious studios, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom units with facilities designed for comfort and ease of living. Complying the dominant atmosphere are completed leisure amenities such as a swimming pool, clubhouse with entertainment rooms, public play areas and more!

Plus, the MRB are also surrounded by the beauty and peace of trees in a safe, close-knit community that provides safety and convenience.

Patch of green in Ortigas

Set to be launched and fully open Ortigas, located within the environs of the Ortigas Business District, BMB 1-1 residential buildings rise over 6-7 storeys and provide a comfortable living space and easy to get-away with low-rise features dedicated to spacious and open spaces.

The Ortigas Area is strategically located along Ortigas Avenue Extension, with easy access to public transportation. It enjoys favorable proximity to key destinations such as The Med Medical City, UP Manila and Philippine Taal Hospital, Greenhills, Ortigas Center, Pasig Boulevard, Pasig Boulevard and Pasig.

Ballroom tranquility in Pasig

Escape into your own world of tranquility and privacy right in the distinct area of Bali Oasis along Marcos Highway in Pasig City. Balinese inspired architectural touches and warm earth tones complement the soothing ambiance of this peaceful enclave. Your comfort and safety is a 1.8-hectare property encourage a close-knit community where neighbors are familiar with each other.

Bali Oasis enjoys a prime location within striking distance of the familiar UP Diliman area. Less than five minutes away are major establishments such as SM Marikina and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and Robinsons Metro East. Driving time or school is a breeze and Marcos Highway, UP Diliman, Ateneo College and St. Scholastica's School are less than 10 minutes away.

Raising Property in Sta. Maria

In Manila, Real Good living is the kind of lifestyle living in the Metro with the Filinvest city in its premiere. Here, you are surrounded by nature and captured the harmonious lifestyle of this celebrated island residential area.

Bali Oasis enjoys a convenient location along Marcos Highway in Sta. Maria, easily accessible from Cubao and Marikina City. It is within 10 minutes away from Green Garden Commercial, San Mateo Public Market, Sta. Maria Public Market, Sta. Maria Municipal Hall and Sta. Maria Police Station.

Lush Havens in Davao and Cebu

The Filinvest-owned Metro Manila, One Grand Center, 2 parcels of land with urban residential in Davao City, Filinvest Group, Cagayan Oro, the Asian Regional community Davao, Davao residential buildings within a 1.6-hectare complex. Set between the Davao gulf, friendly neighborhood in Metro Manila and other regional centers, enjoying convenient shopping within reach of the Filinvest Group, Cagayan Oro, Davao, Davao Filinvest Group, Cagayan Oro, Davao, Davao Filinvest Group, Cagayan Oro, Davao, Davao

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editor Stefanie Cabal

Better the second time around

inside
Isabelle gets real
'New Moon' soundtrack + trivia

By Bianca Consunji

Buff shirtless men and a good soundtrack await moviegoers

AS WITH THE FIRST installment of the "Twilight" movie series, the first few minutes of "New Moon" were marked by ear-splitting shrieks from the audience. The reason for that, of course, was the appearance of Robert Pattinson onscreen. Brooding as usual and dressed like someone straight from the pages of GQ, Pattinson's acting was somewhat the only thing that did not improve from the first "Twilight" movie.

"New Moon," adapted from the runaway bestseller by Stephenie Meyer, was directed by Chris Weitz (the first one was by Catherine Hardwicke). Under the hands of Weitz, who also directed "The Golden Compass" and "About a Boy," as well as producers of "American Pie" and "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," what could have been a messy fangirl flick was turned into something eminently watchable and sometimes even enjoyable.

But that's not to say that the film doesn't have its many tiresome moments. Pattinson's acting as Edward Cullen is decidedly wooden, which is understandable because there's not much he has to do in the film aside from urging Kristen Stewart as Bella to do or not do something stupid. As a hodgepodge, we find there's also a scene that has pre-Bella and Edward moping through the woods dressed in flowing clothes (yes, really). That said, Stewart's acting has moved beyond stating infinite hero-worshipping gee-gee eyes at her undead dreamboat, but some fixes, such as "Leaving you was the hardest thing I've done in 108 years," make the movie cheesier than it already is. That again, that's Meyer's fault, not the filmmakers'.

The CGI is pretty old school as well, especially when the wolves burst onscreen. But too can tell no movie's really banking on movie details, because everyone's roaring at the half-ripped bodies of the wolf pack (when they're human, of course). In fact, a good portion of the movie is spent cheesecaked in showing off the grueling six-pack abs the actors must have spent at the gym, because the wolf characters (headed by Taylor Lautner as Jacob) spend nearly all their screen time half-naked. But as this is a film that shamelessly does not strive to take itself so seriously this time, all the clichés somehow become more acceptable.

A better soundtrack featuring Bleach Cult Fist Cutie, Muse and Blue Jays among others, also makes the movie bearable even for non-"Twilight" fans. The outstandingly songs add an indie vibe to an otherwise thoroughly mainstream movie, so expect heavy airplay from the soundtrack on the radio soon.

All in all, the second installment of "Twilight" is pretty good, even for a teen movie. You won't hear boys rave about it, but at least they won't be sleeping through the movie either.

E-mail the author at bianca-consunji@yahoo.com

'What did you think of New Moon?'

2bU crashed the red carpet and asked Twilight fans what they thought of the new movie

Interviews and photos by Bianca Consunji

"I LIKED IT! I THINK IT'S much better than 'Twilight' in terms of direction and cinematography. And because I'm for Team Jacob!" --Mitch Ames, 24, writer

"I love how they incorporated the soundtrack to the movie! I thought 'New Moon' was interesting, despite the minimized appearance of the Cullens. We loved it!" --Czarina Nicole Ong, 21, writer

"It was actually good, much better than the first one. More action, better cinematography." --Adrian Fos, 22, call center agent

"It was great, more exciting than the first 'Twilight.'" --Kenneth Cruz, 20, call center agent

"The movie was hot! It was very faithful to the book." --Noe Noriega, 21, management trainee

"I liked it because I'm part of Team Jacob." --Chinette Hernandez, 21, student

Isabelle gets real

This model/cover girl swears she's just your average girl

By Rosca Capili

SHE LIKES Isabelle goofy and enjoys kumiyan-style eating.

EDGY-ESQUE ISABELLE DAZA SAYS she's a normal girl who does normal things. She goes to school, hangs out with friends, and likes going shopping just like most college girls. It seems outside normal, yet her celebrity status, billboards, and endorsements can't be chalked off so easily.

Isabelle arrives at the shoot on a fairly humidity morning in a sleepy mood. She changes outfits with ease, without complaints, and gives small suggestions to Stencil and makeup artist Arlene Armamil and stays through the shoot just to have a little more fun with the look. "Let's try purple lipstick," she says. She is evidently very comfortable in front of the camera, clicking by her self to the photographer's music in the lull between shots as the photos are being reviewed.

"I have this bad habit of unconsciously dancing to music playing in a store while shopping, and my mom always asks, 'Do you realize what you're doing?'" Isabelle confesses. Sweet.

One may think a young adult like her would be vigilant about her public appearance in the guise of paranoia, but the 21-year-old isn't afraid to keep things real.

In good company

"My friends and I like to do normal things," she says. They enjoy marching movies, going out, hanging out in each other's houses, playing Rock Band, "... simple fun stuff," Isabelle concludes.

She says toured a supermarket per request (above her recent prepared fit-

spine-fixed and laid out a luxurious feel on the table for everyone to eat on with their hands.

"At first, they were like 'Erm, I don't want to use my hands but before we knew it, people were already asking for their second serving of rice."

At the end, friends passed each other food, "kamayan" style without fuss.

Isabelle wants with friends to Europe recently, and is planning a camping with them in December. "Apparently there will be a ski-boat. After up the mountain, but the force aren't willing so girls anything! They're making it sound like we'll be wearing marshmallows and singing songs," she says.

The lively Childhood Education student at De La Salle University says that just like most people, she won't ignore the recent economic slump. "I want to learn to cook well and my friends and I are up thermometer because we can't just keep eating dinner out all the time," like adds. "Plus you know what's going to your food."

Learning to cook well is just one of the numbers of short-term goals Isabelle has set for 2010. Other goals are learning how to swim, taking up self-defense, becoming 120% certified, and an overall goal of becoming healthy.

Last year, she set a goal of learning Spanish, which she accomplished. "I do it just to see if I can," she says. "I'm not planning where I should be five years from now, I just go with the flow."

Style files

A fashion inspiration to many, Isabelle says she is sans, enjoys Rachel Bilson's style. "Her style is very understated for me. She is true-boy and doesn't always sport the "it" trend, but she always looks super cute and glamorous."

She also admires good friend and stylist Liz Uy's flair and likes the effortless "model-off-duty look."

Isabelle says it has her personal crisis in shopping is reserving some before buying. "My friends tease me and say 'we're going shopping and Isabelle is going to rearrange everything!' but it helps me decide better," she says. "I do that I don't sleep and think about it, then the next day to buy it, 'Now all my friends do it!' she says with a laugh.

"I'm still a student," Isabelle begins, "and I still ask for allowance." She admits that many times might assume that her work gives her license to live carefree, but Isabelle exercises wisdom, setting all her earnings. When it comes to buying cosmetics that, she advises, "It's knowing when your mom versus what you need ... Because I always 'need' new shoes."

At the end of the shoot, Isabelle thanks everyone and leaves the studio making one more displaying even a hint of all the sweet demeanor extends all throughout supporting her aspiration of being a normal college girl. She says at the end of the interview, "My friends and I just always do really, really goofy

stuff! Like when you enter the cinema and it's dark, I always dance and go wild there, because I feel like no one will ever see me!" Hot spice onstage, but club-ready too.

Q&A

I'm drinking to ... the soundtrack of [illegible]

Guilty pleasure ... "Gimme Gift" [illegible]

Favorite [illegible] ... Chocolate [illegible]

The toughest part ... [illegible]

Most embarrassing moment ... [illegible]

Best [illegible] ... [illegible]

Worst [illegible] ... [illegible]

Favorite [illegible] ... [illegible]

Favorite [illegible] ... [illegible]

Favorite

SPOTTED

TVmania

Text and photos by Renan Capili
Contributor

What celebrity inspires their style?

DANCE Imagen Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's PLM Iskolars Dance Incorporated and UP Diliman's Street Dance Club

all set for the holidays

Styles may vary per store
Children's Shoes Department

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Streetdance showdown

25 schools battle it out for the championship at the Dome today

AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING, ENDLESS physical training and preparation, the country's finest, strongest, and innovative streetdance teams will face off at Shockwave Streetdance Battle 3.

Expect thousands of eager dance enthusiasts to flock to the Araneta Coliseum at 3 p.m., today to witness the culmination of the highly anticipated grand Final Battle.

This year's Shockwave Streetdance Battle saw close to 100 participating high school and college streetdance crews, who competed for the back-to-back championships. In the end, only 25 teams, composed of 10 high school and 15 college crews, made it to the Finals.

The high school eliminations were held last Oct. 21. The ten lucky finalists were Colegio San Agustin Dance Troupe, St. Paul Pasig Trupakbers, Civil Aeronautics Administration Airmen 2009SPEZ, Miriam College High School Streetstyle Dance Troupe, La Salle Greenhills Airborn, St. Mark's Institute Campus Troupe, School of the Holy Spirit Aglala 8.9 Dance Troupe, Claret School Hatsue, Xavier School Dance X, and Avenue de Manila High School's Inside.

Last Oct. 11, college eliminations were held and the first batch finalists were Ateneo de Manila University's Company of Ateneo Dancers, De La Salle University's La Salle Dance Company Street, UP Los Baños Mpire Underground, Lyceum of the Philippines' Lyceum Spartans Dance Troupe, and UP Diliman's UP Street Dance Club.

Last Oct. 17, another college elimination was held and those who made it were Technological Institute of the Philippines Quezon City's TIP Taboan Guild, Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba's Letrano Dance Crew, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's PLM Iskolars Dance Incorporated, Far Eastern University's FEU-DIES Crew, and Far Eastern University's FEU Dance Company.

Last Oct. 18, the last college eliminations were held and the lucky finalists were University of Makati's Funky Jazz Extreme, University of the East's Extreme Squad, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa's University Campus Style, Assumption College's Assumption Dance Company, and the AMA Computer University's AMA Dance Troupe.

All seats in all 25 teams face-off for a shot at the grand prize of P150,000 and the ultimate bragging rights as the 2009 Shockwave Streetdance Battle champions!

For more information, visit streetdance.com.ph.

'New Moon' soundtrack

"THE TWILIGHT Saga: New Moon Soundtrack" Various Artists

By Angela V. Ignacio
Contributor

This satisfies your (bitter)sweet tooth for indie ballads

OKAY, SO WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT "New Moon" is all about Bella's angsty-cum-Edward-bearing lure. But if you're expecting its soundtrack to be made up of cheesy love songs that will make you jump off a cliff in sheer depression like our heartbroken heroine did, think again.

While "Twilight's" musical repertoire mostly yielded angst-ridden, "you and me against the world" riffs as heralded by Steinman's "Decode," the music of "New Moon" assumes a more subdued, "wounded lovers" vibe. Alexandra Patsavas, music supervisor for "Gossip Girl" and "Grey's Anatomy" picks out the best from her indie playlist to come up with a edgy-lite compilation full of haunting melodies, subdued synth effects and ethereal vocals to set the mood for breaking (and making) up. Let's put it this way: If a hopelessly lovesick human girl ever made a playlist of songs to convey her feelings to her supernatural beloved, this would most probably be it. A mixtape of mixed emotions is what this album is, seamlessly drifting back and forth between Bella's torturous love for Edward and her growing feelings for Jacob.

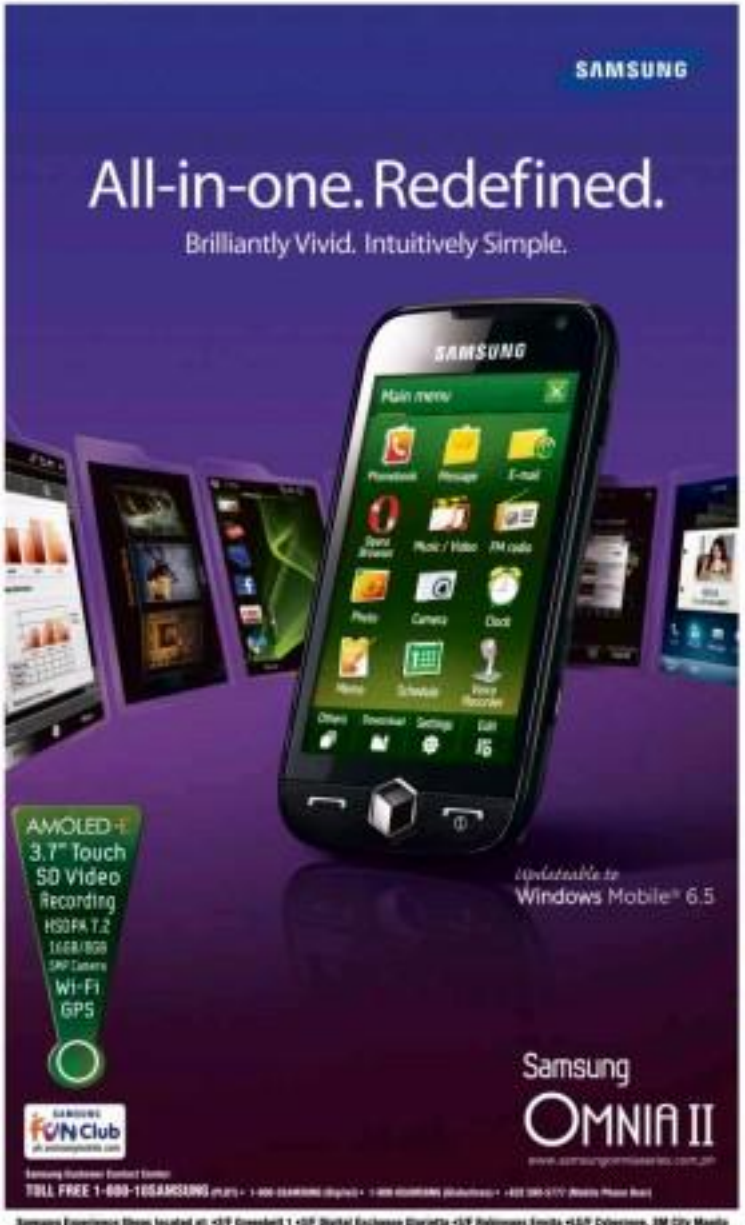
Sending the pack to the explosive Sia track "Silver Me On The Equinox" by indie giant Death Cab For Cutie, with "The Silver" eerily captioning serenade "A White Dress Love Song" and Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke's much-talked-about single "Hearing Damage" adding the Goth-rock flavor to the compilation.

The bulk of the album is made up of lukewarmer acoustic gems that tug at your heartstrings, such as Anya Marina's "Stolen Hours," Grizzly Bear's "Ghost Life," Black Mountain's Rebel Club's "Never All Wrong" and Bon Iver & St. Vincent's "Beth/Rest," which could very well be the counterpart of the "Twilight" soundtrack's signature composer "Flightless Bird, American Mouth" by Iron And Wine. We can almost imagine a brooding Bella holed up in her room, obsessing about Edward (and Jacob, probably).

Plopping up the melancholy atmosphere are the piano ballads, Lykke Li's "Possibility," The Killers' "The Scared, But The Wired" and the beautiful instrumental by Alexandre Desplat.

Meanwhile, the more upbeat tracks—"Friends" by Band Of Skulls, "Monsters" by Hurricane Bells, the 90s punk/new wave-tinged "Violet Hour" by Sea Wolf and OK Go's "Shooting The Moon"—sing about Bella's happier days with Jacob as he helps her back on her feet.

Of course, the soundtrack wouldn't be complete without the requisite song from Stephenie Meyer's ultimate "muse"—a remixed version of Muse's "I Belong To You," a jaunty, gleeful romp which runs next up the whole surreal listening experience.



'New Moon' trivia

Compiled by Bianca Caranzi

1 JAMES CAMPBELL BOWER (WHO) appears in the movie as Volturi member Laurat auditioned for the role of Edward Cullen in the first film. He also starred as Anthony, Jennifer's lover, in 2007's "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." He seems to have a taste for blockbuster movies, because he will also be appearing as Gellert Grindelwald in the two-part film, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

2 Indie rock band Death Cab For Cutie, which gained a cult following after its music was featured in shows such as "The OC" and "Gilmore Girl," wrote a song exclusively for the "New Moon" soundtrack, entitled "Meet Me on the Equinox."

3 Nikki Reed, who plays the impossibly beautiful Rosalie Cullen, opted to not have her hair dyed for the movie. The brunette said that it took 20 hours to bleach and color her hair every other day in order to keep it looking perfect. Instead, a wig was used.

4 "New Moon" is allegedly Robert Pattinson's favorite book in the series.

5 Taylor Lautner appeared in main role character in the movie, "Shuttley and Lovegirl 2127."

6 After the first "Twilight" movie, Lautner was reportedly almost pulled out because the filmmakers feared that he would not be able to bulk up in time for the movie. However, he managed to gain 28 pounds of muscle.

7 Kristen Stewart, who plays Bella, got whiplash from filming several strenuous scenes. She told Entertainment Weekly magazine that she ran in her car and rubbed prior to filming her breakup scene with Robert Pattinson in Edward.

Samsung Experience Shops located at: •G/F Greenbelt 1 •G/F Digital Exchange Diaridta •G/F Robinsons Ermita •L5/F Cyberzone, SM City Manila •G/F Seahawk Mall •G/F Robinsons Galleria •L5/F Cyberzone, SM Megamall •3/F Northwing, SM Mall of Asia •G/F Cyberzone, SM Marikina •G/F SM San Fernando, Pampanga •G/F The Annex SM City North Edsa •G/F Ayala Center Cebu •L3/F SM City Cebu •G/F Southwing SM City Bacolod •G/F Limketkai Mall, Cagayan De Oro •Graphic Main Store, Cagayan De Oro •G/F Gaisano Mall Davao •L3/F SM City Davao

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Editor
Thelma Sioson San Juan
Lifestyle Editor
Pam Pastor

Comelec's move to reject Ladlad's party-accreditation didn't win them any points with the young

The Super generation speaks up about the Comelec, Ladlad and gay rights

Compiled by Pam Pastor and Ruby de Vera

"Comelec's rejection of big Ladlad's accreditation reeks of ignorance and discrimination. I'm appalled at their insane subjectiveness against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and homosexuals – important constituents all our society who deserve an equal respect and recognition. The Comelec should stay within its mandate and focus on how to make the elections work instead of bickering as usual. Period." –**Manjo Francia, 31, rights advocate and musician**

"Time and again, it is the Comelec, through its ineffectiveness, ignorance and more, intolerance, that proves itself the greater threat to the youth and the country's future."
–**Mark Christian Padrelo, 28-something PR guy**

"It is indeed shame of mankind in the land living that crawling small. Other countries celebrate diversity in sexuality while Comelec still chooses to bite and subject people's value to it."
–**Quel, 25, artist**

"I've been of the opinion that the country's compliant attitude toward the Catholic church will continue to keep us from being a truly democratic and humanistic nation. Gays are a threat to youth? And heterosexual officials who take advantage of public funds aren't? Isn't it time to start how to think instead of thinking the way the Church tells us to?" –**Ian**

"Hmmm okay? If they are all for morality, they should start self-evaluation as they are trying to say majority of people in power are bound to abide by their unspoken "holier" (and I'm not even talking about the LGBT animals)." –**Rina, marketing communications manager**

"I honestly think we should be getting younger politicians and stop getting people whose prime aim is in doing the dark ages. Comelec calls Ladlad "sexually immoral," I, on the other hand, think that the Comelec is close-minded, homophobic and downright cruel for doing this. Gays/lesbians are a very important part of Philippine culture and society, let's give them the respect they deserve." –**Quark**

"Apparently, abdicating our electoral system shouldn't call mass celebrations. It should also involve contesting the evil of standpoint of Comelec. Its belief system that such can be wrested industrially while it is consistent with constitutionally guaranteed rights, the irrationality is not at all immorality. What is immoral at in the irrational and bigoted of those who hypocritically advocate prop-ion while embracing malevolent beliefs that result in the marginalization of human beings." –**Jeff Dy Ignacio, 24, BP Alyansa member**

"It is both appalling and disgusting that the Comelec, which is supposed to uphold the democratic rights of the people, has a primitive and oppressive perspective about homosexuality. We're not even discussing gay marriage yet. This is just simply a call for representing a minority group in Congress and already it is being rejected. Gay citizens pay their taxes too. Accord them their right to be heard." –**Ritchie Salgado, 30**

"If we were to disqualify politicians on the basis of the 10 Commandments alone, no one will be left to office.
"Show me a politician who hasn't stolen, lied and slept with a neighbor's wife, and I'll show you Mikey Arroyo as a homosexuals lover from Harvard." –**Jason Baptista, 26, editor**

Graphics Design: Ruben Joshua Cardo

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Last few weekend getaways in November at The Malayan Plaza

NEED 93 ESCAPE FROM THE BUSY area of the stressful weekends? Then need some place quiet and relaxing but is also in the immediate vicinity of the country's top leisure, recreation and shopping centers. That would be especially great for bonding weekends with the family or loved ones, or even for just going solo. And it would help if the rates are friendly on the pocket.

The Malayan Plaza offers a Weekend Escapade that does just that. Take advantage of the unwinding long weekend of November with special package rates like P5,500 net per night for a studio superior room or P6,800 net per night in a one bedroom deluxe unit. And all these rates that are applicable on bookings from Fridays to Mondays until Dec. 30.

The Malayan Plaza's Weekend Escapade package also throws in daily buffet breakfast, bottled water, local newspaper and free use of gym, and the swimming pool.

Managed by renowned property management team Quantum Hotels and Resorts, The Malayan Plaza Hotel is located along ADB Avenue corner Opal Road in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. It offers fur-nished studio, one-bed room and one bedroom suites that easily combine aesthetic values, comfort and functionality. Apart from featuring stylish interiors, units are also equipped with complete living, dining and kitchen facilities. Other amenities include cable network services, WiFi/LED telephones, individually controlled air-conditioning, hot and cold water, in room internet access, broadband Internet in the room, helipad, swimming pool, open-air wharf pool, children's playroom, housekeeping, laundry and concierge services, private dining, and 24 hour security.

For inquiries, contact The Malayan Plaza Hotel at tel. nos. (632)756-8000, 634-6124 or e-mail malayansales@quantumsuites.com.

DUSIT THANI MANILA RACS MARIBUHAY AWARDS 2009 - BEST MANAGER CATEGORY

Anna Lizette Sunaog, Dusit Thani Manila's senior executive manager – rooms division was declared as this year's Maribuhay Awards 2009 winner in the managerial category beating 11 other strong candidates from different deluxe hotels in Manila. She tied with three nominees. Sunaog graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and post-graduate studies in Front Line Management at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Highly organized with a keen sense of urgency, Sunaog assures that the team is not only well-informed but well-educated on operation matters. She is also a firm believer of the need to constantly adapt change through continuous learning and improvement.

A Starbucks Christmas tradition

THE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME TO SHARING INSPIRATION, wishes and traditions. For Starbucks, it's about sharing a tradition rooted in more than three decades of expertise and passion for coffee. Starbucks Coffee Company's partners (or what they fascinate one of the most popular and anticipated coffees to their entire coffee catalogue. Starbucks Christmas Blend. This year, celebrating its 20th anniversary, decades of festive gatherings, joyous occasions and peaceful moments are wrapped into the tradition of Starbucks Christmas Blend. Each year, this newest, spicy favorite combines the boldness of a rich Latin American coffees with the mellow smoothness of Asia-Pacific coffees, including rare aged Indonesian beans. However, what makes it special is that the flavor profile varies slightly each year. While staying true to its bean origin and balanced taste complexities, the flavor notes deliver a tad differently as one hears six Lone Star-inspired Christmas songs in a row. This limited seasonal coffee is designed to be a perfect holiday gift. Starbucks Christmas Blend is also available in decaf. Starbucks Christmas Blend will be available in the Philippines beginning Nov. 4.

InterCon to hold bigger 3-day holiday sale

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA is holding an even bigger sale from Nov. 26 to 28, for holiday party packages, buffet reservations, Gold Jeepney and its New Year Countdown Party. If you are looking for tomorrow bargains, this is it!

Hold your party during the period of Dec. 1 to 30, and avail of these very special party package rates: P900 per person for lunch or dinner for a minimum of 50 guests and P700 per person for set lunch or dinner. Includes in these packages are a round of iced tea for everyone, buffet meal accommodations, complimentary 1 bottles of wine for a minimum of 100 guests, free mobile disco for a minimum of 300 persons and complimentary raffle prizes.

Enjoy Cafe Jeepney's sumptuous buffets at half price for reservations of at least 4 persons to a maximum of 20 guests. The offer is valid for reservations for the period of Dec. 1 to Jan. 3, 2010 with the exception of Dec. 24, 25 and 31.

Holiday 2010 will a country-side fiesta. Join InterContinental Manila's New Year Countdown Party at the Grand Ballroom on Dec. 31, from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Buy tickets to the party during the 3-day sale at the discounted rate of P1,499 (as per-son instead of the regular price of P1,799).

For bookings and more information on terms and conditions, please call 793-7000.

Courtyard Inn-Subic Bay completes project for a more secured vacation

ONE OF THE FINEST HOTEL experiences in the Freeport Zone just got even better thanks to the recently completed project to tighten the security.

Today hotels have definite needs when it comes to an access control system. It should be durable and flexible enough to respond whatever challenges arise without compromising guest style, says architect Jay Aguilar, president of Courtyard Inn, owned and operated by Insular Corp. Hoteliers are looking for global solutions for the access control systems as well as security and comfort.

"A commitment to "being our best" is what guides and motivates all of the staff at Courtyard Inn. We are proud of the attention given to every detail, from innovation to quality. It is because that commitment to excellence is shared by our company and all our valued guests. That's why we are very satisfied with our lodging master", says Wilhelm C. Ang, CEO.

Renovations include the acquisition of a more sophisticated hotel lock systems and in room safe, adding to the supreme comfort and ease match this modern CheckPoint. His experiences, highlighted by the coming of new doors for the beds. These ultimate personal comfort zones feature 300 thread-count linens, more, FitFlex pillows, denim comforters and mattresses that provide all the comforts of home and then some.

"We are so excited to share all of these new elements of our property with our guests," said the hotel's General Manager. "The renovations have taken our already outstanding guest experience to brand new levels and solidified our position as one of the Triad's premier properties for business and leisure travelers alike."

For more information on the Courtyard Inn Subic Bay, visit www.courtyardinn-subic.com or call (047) 252 2366/67 or write to courtyard@subicwd.com.

24/7 SUPER RADAR

By Janine Cuenca-Davis and Gerardo Espinosa

MAKING YOUR WEEKend plans? Explore your options: dine for a cause, punish the dance floor and usher in the holiday season with a hoag, literally.

Eat up

Until Dec. 31, eight restaurants from the Fort, Taguig, give new dimension to dining out through "8 to Educate," an awareness campaign spearheaded by the Melanie Francisco Inc.

Each time a featured menu item is ordered, a certain amount will be donated to help with the education of underprivileged children.

The participating restaurants are Arcana, Cru, Chelsea, Cupcakes by Sonja, Pic, Healthy Kitchen, Asiatic 1771 and Eurobar.

Visit www.eat-learn.org for more information.

Slick sounds

Get your party on at "Laidback Lake Gives Back" held at the Amber Ebrahimzaga, Fort strip, Taguig, today.

Dubbed as the Thrills from Manila, Laidback Luke is the only Filipino to rank in DJ Magazine's 2009 Top 100 DJ Polls. Part of the proceeds of the event will go to the Philippine National Red Cross to benefit the victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

For more details and table reservations, contact 497-2472, 0917-817-9987.

Big bang

Gear up for the World Pyro Olympics 2009, the first ever pyromusical event, held every Saturday at the Fort Open Grounds in Taguig.

The festivities kick off today with performances from Germany and Ghana. Other participating countries are Canada, Australia, Japan, Italy and the United States.

The event culminates on Dec. 19, with the showcasing of the event highlights and a closing display from the Philippines.

For VIP tickets, call 568-5806 or 384-8239. Tickets may also be purchased at Bobbit & Wong outlets and through Ticketworld (891-9999, www.ticketworld.com.ph).

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up our free copy of 24/7 Restaurant Hangover at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 plus to 7000 for clubs, 366 for binars and 2401 for San Andres; your school, also before Thursday to rsvsuper@mag24-7.com or magdet@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Flavors around the world at the Manila Pavilion

THIS NOVEMBER, THE MANILA Pavilion Hotel gives gastronomes something to get hung-out-to-dry about during the days before Christmas. Celebrate the holidays early by indulging your palates with these international flavors.

Savory cuisine offers you a taste of exquisite international flavors with its diversely appetizing international buffet, all Thursdays and Fridays of the month, for only P950 net per person.

Rooftop Garden promises to make your festive thrill of the grill with its barbecue feast. Relish the smoky-savory taste of specially-prepared Chinese dishes that is sure to make the meal all the more memorable. The Barbecue Buffet promo runs from Nov 1 to 30.

Treat your taste buds to a unique gastronomy trip with a dose of Indian dish. Enjoy a serving of Peninsula's tandoori chicken at only P580+1 per order.

Enjoy the exotic flavor of tandoor-fired, herb rubs, several herb crusted poissons and other tasty offings, with Sundown's Baby Back Ribs Promo for only P399+ per order.

The Peninsula also presents its chef-recommended dish: not bare with white sauce served with supremely delicious and seasoned vegetables. Only P1,300 net per person.

For inquiries and reservations, call 8521126 local 1202 or log on to www.manilapavilion.ph.

Kobe Beef a la carte creations at Uvo: Japanese Restaurant

HAVE A BEEF-LICIOUS NOVEMBER AT JAPANESE chain Uvo's Espana where up authentic Kobe beef Japanese-style cooking events is renowned for its flavor, tenderness and fatty well marbled texture. Feast all the way from Western Japan, catch this Uvo specialty at the month and enjoy it anyway you want - sashimi, tepanyaki, shabu-shabu, teriyaki steak, robatayaki, carpio maki, sirloin maki, sukiyaki (sukiyaki, negi maki) and more! Kobe Beef a la carte creations are available for lunch and dinner until Nov 30, at their Jose Japanese Restaurant located at the ground floor of Dusit Thani Manila. For inquiries and reservations, please call 901-3333 or e-mail dtmfb@dusit.com.

AA BBQ - Cebu's finest local restaurant

AA BBQ STARTED IN LOS ANGELES, SIMPLE BARBECUE STAND WITH a simple purpose, to serve customers as an alternative "pulutan" to friends who enjoy themselves drinking together in the convenient store. A few years after, AA BBQ has expanded into a simple barbecue stand to a dining restaurant. And now it has 7 restaurants located in different places in Cebu City which, to this very day are continuously satisfying customers with its delicious barbecue, fish and dining service. Locations of restaurants are as follows: AA BBQ at: 5, Fortuna - A. S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu. (tel. no. 416-1372, look for Marlon "Sonny" Poncio) | AA BBQ North Reclamation - Ouano Ave., North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, Cebu (tel. no. 419-9011, look for Joselito "Lito" Ventosa) | AA BBQ Guadalupe - Andres Abellana St., Guadalupe, Cebu City (tel. no. 412-8011, look for Pauline "Pat" Gellor Jr.) | AA BBQ Plaza Independencia - M. J. Cuenco Ave. cor. Legaspi Ext., Cebu City (tel. no. 072-9124, look for Cornelio "Neil" Flores) | AA BBQ Magallanes - Cebu-Lapu-Lapu, Magallanes, Cebu (tel. no. 232-0990, look for Edilberto "Ella" Amparado) | AA BBQ Parola - Balcon, Parola, Cebu City (tel. no. 238-6412, look for Rodrigo "Rod" Wenceslao) | AA BBQ Lapu-Lapu - Pusok, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu (opening soon). To even make your day more enjoyable with AA BBQ, they have created special promos for you. Every year, they have a Halloween Party where kids could enjoy trick or treating and a Halloween Contest where you could be the judges. Lovers who celebrates their Valentines Day with AA BBQ receives chocolate lollipops. Customers who celebrate his/her/their birthday with the restaurant will receive a special gift.

Where to Dine & Dine Out

Cucciolo's · Dome · Museum Cafe · Max's · Mang Inasal · Kenny Rogers Roasters · Chowking · Greenwich · Jollibee · Red Ribbon · Goldilocks · Tokyo Tokyo · Sizzler · Pizza Hut · Shakey's · Yellow Cab · Figaro · Bo Innovation · Bo Kwan · Bo Ky · Bo Sang · Bo Tien · Bo Tri · Bo Tu · Bo Xuan · Bo Ya · Bo Yang · Bo Yuan · Bo Zang · Bo Zhong · Bo Zhu · Bo Zi · Bo Zong · Bo Zu · Bo Zuo · Bo Zuo Ye · Bo Zuo Yi · Bo Zuo Yu · Bo Zuo Yuan · Bo Zuo Zai · Bo Zuo Zao · Bo Zuo Zhe · Bo Zuo Zhi · Bo Zuo Zhong · Bo Zuo Zhu · Bo Zuo Zi · Bo Zuo Zong · Bo Zuo Zu · Bo Zuo Zuo · Bo Zuo Zuo Ye · Bo Zuo Zuo Yi · Bo Zuo Zuo Yu · Bo Zuo Zuo Yuan · Bo Zuo Zuo Zai · Bo Zuo Zuo Zao · Bo Zuo Zuo Zhe · Bo Zuo Zuo Zhi · Bo Zuo Zuo Zhong · Bo Zuo Zuo Zhu · Bo Zuo Zuo Zi · Bo Zuo Zuo Zong · Bo Zuo Zuo Zu · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Ye · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Yi · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Yu · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Yuan · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Zai · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Zao · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Zhe · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Zhi · Bo Zuo Zuo Zuo Zhong · Bo Zuo Zuo 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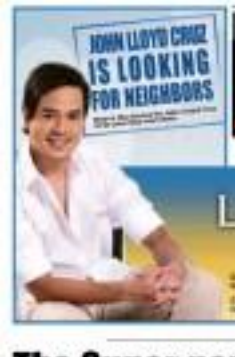
D4 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009
super LIFESTYLE



LA BREZA TOWER
MOTHER IGNACIA QUEZON CITY
CONDOTEL AND CONDOMINIUM
STA. LUCIA LAND, INC.
ROYALE HOMES

The Super generation speaks up about the Comelec . . .

Rummage Girl

"The Comelec said that it does not want to [oppose] our youth to an environment that does not conform to the teachings of our faith. I don't know about the faith of Nicolas-Ino Perez, but my faith tells me that the rights of ALL human beings should be respected, protected and promoted. I don't want the youth to grow up in an environment full of hatred. What are these Comelec commissioners so afraid of? That LGBTs would be allowed to marry? That they would have the right to convey your property? That they would be allowed to adopt children as a couple?

-Oy, 31, alipin ng mamamatay- ka-sarbisyo

"Appointee? If their aim is against immorality, then they should get rid of the people in the family and media first."

-Patricia Calleon, 39

"Homosexuality does not equate to immorality. I do not say this because I want to defend myself for being bisexual—I say this because as far as I'm concerned, my sexual orientation is not a matter of your business. It is religion that dictates and defines morality. Now, religion is something that man created. It is an interpretation of their chosen deities' teachings. Didn't your god say that it's immoral for you to judge people? (Those of you who have not sinned shall cast the first stone...) Every human being deserves love and that is ALL of this (citations? Didn't your god create us as well? And Kant? Kabuang umasang na lang na sanga ng kahoy? So will the powers that be come to me and speak to me directly, I cannot accept your opinions and judgment on how immoral an act."

-Ian Vitug, actress

"Let the electorate decide whether or not gay people should be represented in Congress, not the Comelec."

-RJ Ledesma

"The quotable dismal politico but I'm all for essay rights. I'm a non-practicing Catholic but I support the sacraments and believe in God. Equal immorality though as grounds to ban among a word to use. (challenge Comelec to be the first to cast a stone on the grounds of immorality)."

-Ayaa Flores, 29, senior specifications manager

"When did gender, age and race ever stop a person from being immoral? It's all about choices. I raised my children to be free."

-Pia M. , non-judgmental "mommyger"

"I'm appalled. The Comelec to chairwoman, it doesn't recognize the taint of candid representation. It is immoral to equal rights. Yet it has the gall to overrule [legal groups that support GMA]."

-Evan Cloud, HR manager

"It's either some conservatives show topics about homosexuality or I haven't been bold and problem enough to stand for my sexuality. Here I have on the streets to make the world knows that I love men and be sincerely proud about it? Here I have assertive enough to speak to my peers (especially to the straight ones) during lunch breaks about how gay marriage won't change the foundations of society? That AIDS is not really a gay disease? Here I made a step to call the radio stations to ban that derogatory song because "Darling ng bakla is nakakatot lang 'yan dyan, 'wag mong sabihin at!! I haven't."

-Giles

"If gay priests could run, they'd probably be joining Ledlad, too."

-Richelle Ann V. Ribal, marketing & communications associate, YES Bakuperas

"I immediately checked the date of the newspaper I was reading. Am I still in 2009 or did I mysteriously travel back to the age of inquisition or my sleep? It is word salad beside that there are still people who decide based on primeval thinking which doesn't complement the current, collective pursuit of free-thinking and acceptance of individual differences. If the Comelec is really itching to weed out sarah dates perceived to be immoral and pose a threat to the Pinoy youth, they should begin with those smart and cunning politicians running in election."

-Dennis Beronia/30-something marketing communications specialist

"It only proves that in the Philippines, democracy is only for the religious. We're facing regression."

-JB Isaac

"I believe the only time Comelec can preach about immorality is the minute they can make ignorance synonymous with immorality."

-Cynthia, 27, blogger

"I'd rather have an honest gay politician than a straight con-ugi one!"

-Tallo, makeup artist

"The alpha males of government are scared because a new gender is now emerging as a threat to their power, who'd probably fit times more unified than they are."

-Ping, artist, climate-change activist

"When did our tax-exempt state-run schools become institutions of sexual preferences? When it is said that ignorance of the law excuses nobody, it also means that the law is fair and equal, even when it comes to parity and retribution. It shouldn't matter if it were said by someone straight, gay or bisexual, what matters is that we are in the public good conscience and the desire to help change our tainted country for the better."

-Miles Mastrocito, 25, account director

"People of Comelec, before pointing your dirty fingers in the face of a homosexual at least quit calling us immoral, better look at yourselves and behold those that you have allowed to be hired. The polling did in the House of Representatives began with lies, warring accusations and name calling, nothing has been changed to look beyond, in merging the hostilities under groups. What's immoral is the breach of trust of public trust committed by one set politicians. Immorality is nothing but an excuse to dismiss us. I think your aim just about that Congress should get to an end."

-Cliff, 29

"I have stood in a clear separation between church and state. I fully support the RH bill and Ledlad."

-Jaya, musician

"Bwahahahaha! Smashing the fabric of our country by suppressing the rapists before (can't do anything) worse than the hate-mongers who are in charge who are taking it on a joyride. It's hypocritical, primitive and so simplistic of the Comelec."

-Joseph Pascual, 31, UP Film major

"Funny. I always thought that Satanic, pedophile-protecting, prostitute-and-pimp-owned that were marriage-certified in the Calgreen."

-Ron, dealer

I don't understand how the Comelec can't see that in the dark ages. All they have to do is watch television or browse internet websites to know that the LGBT community has been influencing the youth all over the world. Do they know who Ellen de Generes is? How they were "MAY" "Maximo Oliveros"? "Boy Abunda? Manny Castaneda? There are just so many teachers and media people who are part of the LGBT community who are helping shape the values and morals of the next generation. And they want to eliminate people like them from having a voice in the government? That is anti-women double-standard. And it's very hypocritical. People at Comelec should stop living under a rock and join the 21st century.

-Mangpy, journalist

"Comelec, if I want my dose of immorality, I won't look to the LGBT Ledlad and related to the LGBT-ally-ignorance as it has murdered politicians, beatified child-abuse schools, oppressed women, and committed all of our Taxes. So if I want to broaden my youth, I will not hesitate then walk the line of their own bolding hands out of their failure in corrupt and bigoted faith."

-Lia, 32, ink-addicted-ology Student (UP Diliman)

"Comelec's disqualification of Ledlad proves how (1) ignorant they are; (2) how marginalized and (3) how unrepresented gay people were in the Philippines. JC Valverde, 25, Events & Digital Communication

"I want to stop down Comelec officials and make them watch 'Ang Pag-ibahagi ni Madonna Oliveros' and 'The Lorraine Project.' Then maybe, just maybe, they wouldn't be so ignorant as they are now."

-Nina, 24, graphic artist

"No one has the right to say we are immoral and a threat to the youth. How dare them! The commissioners are so judgmental, so full of discrimination and hate. They mentioned stereotypical myths that have been disproved years ago. What saddens me are the way these commissioners are standing by their irrational beliefs. These are not the traits a true Christian and Muslim are known for. I am lucky to call some my friends and relatives and they are not like them. Lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders are NOT immoral. We are not a threat to the youth. You are, our dear commissioners, when you continue to propagate these kind of prejudices."

-Ging Cristobal, project coordinator, ISIS International - Lesbian Advocates Philippines

"The Comelec is a bunch of douchebags and hypocrites! Talking about immorality when their hands are dirty. Isn't it immoral to have Virgilio Garcillano as one of their commissioners? Mocharing the votes regularized and immoral to environmental date?

"And the Comelec chairperson that denied Ledlad used a Biblical excerpt for its decision! Hello! Article 2 section 6 of the 1987 Constitution states that the separation of Church and State shall be inviolable.

"They should have denied accreditation to the Gung Gung that of El Shaddai and the party list of Eddie Villanueva's son!"

-Ben Cuizon, 25, gym instructor

"The idea of the party-list seems it on the principle that under-represented sectors have a chance to have their voice heard. If the Commission on Ledlad as an agency for immorality, shouldn't the voters figure that out for themselves? Last time we had elections, the same group was disqualified for not having a national presence. This year it's a question of morality. Clearly, Comelec seems misaligned with what it ought to be doing.

"The Comelec says gays and lesbians are more than adequately represented in Congress. If that were the case, aren't certain families over-represented in the two houses of Congress? Why not disqualify them? It seems that common sense, fair play, and tolerance are under-represented in the Comelec."

-Ayaya Manuel A. Guinto, Ateneo Graduate Management, SOC Citizen H.S.

Gay Filipinos and Rainbow

By Oliver M. Palomark

JUST HOW AWARE ARE GAY Filipinos of their rights?

One gay organization, the Rainbow Rights Project (or R-Rights), helps volunteer gays and straights alike by spearheading discussions about the Filipino LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community.

Founded in 2005 by law graduates from the University of the Philippines, R-Rights has evolved to include volunteers from different colleges and organizations. Current president and legal rights activist Angie S. Umbac is elated that the group is reaching out to other various gay groups and that their combined efforts help people talk about issues faced by gay Filipinos.

"We co-sponsor forums with the other LGBT organizations," says Umbac. "We often seek them out for their expertise that R-Rights does not possess. Ish hold different—but some parallel—forums. We focus on legal rights and policies, but in order to address well the needs of the community, it is imperative to know the community well. That is why our forums are interactive, we learn from each other."

R-Rights has co-sponsored UP forums,

on the "Dyke Dialogues" holds discussions about lesbian relationships and dynamics. The discussions, funded by the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, have been held in Cagayan de Oro, Baguio and Cebu.

Other projects include the Pink Cart, which protects gay patrons of bars and restaurants from harassment, and Sulit, discussions on transgender concerns, such as suicide among gay youths.

"Gay Filipinos are very innovative," says Umbac. "Faced with many adversities, they make do with what they have, and do it with such flair and ingenuity. They carve their paths privately, but they can surprise you with their strength and resilience. And because of what we know of gay Filipinos, we're hesitant to secure safe anything for granted. We're hesitant to be respectful, to be ready to learn from others."

What are lawmakers doing to protect gay rights?

"Bills have been filed on LGBT rights since the 11th Congress, but there is still no national law," Umbac laments. "The anti-discrimination bill has yet to spill out anywhere. However, there are successes among local legislators. In Quezon City and Albay anti-discrimination ordinances have been passed. The passage of those can be credited to the active LGBT groups in those areas. LGBT-friendly provisions are also contained in the Quezon City Gender and Development Ordinance."

For some gay men and women, accepting their homosexuality may be difficult. Some seek acceptance and support from their families and co-workers, while others easily accept their sexual orientation and proceed with their lives, regardless of what people may think.

Umbac is glad that there are many openly gay people who are even coming out to their families in the Philippines.

"There is love and respect between the parents and the child, and the child, each other," he says. "I have seen this picture in many gay families and I have observed how idealistic we are. It takes a village to raise a child, and the LGBT community looks after its own. The child and his or her parents are ensured of a strong support system. Each child in a gay family is wanted and loved. Some brown families are on this tricky."

And R-Rights will keep talking about gay relationships, families and related topics in upcoming projects and seminars.

"R-Rights has launched the Rainbow Radio Pilipinas. Also, if funding permits, we'll be having a legal right LGBT forum in Davao, and Dyke Dialogues on **topics like lesbians on and lesbian-disability in Philippine literature.**

For further information on R-Rights, visit <rainbowrights.multiply.com>, or e-mail <rights@rainbowrights.com>.

2bU LIFESTYLE

BIANCA Romero-Salas and Rhea Schmid with their friendship bracelets.

Handcuffed for love

These kids are selling bracelets to help others

By John L. Silva
Contributor

ENTREPRENEURS...WE HAVE buckets of in this country. But social entrepreneurs? Ah, they're a rare bunch.

Like Bianca Romero-Salas and Rhea Schmid. Their colorful friendship bracelets are on sale but they aren't make a evenove. They're business is making money for others who need it.

I had seen Bianca moped zealously over those awesome bracelets months back. When unknown week, up to six hours to make one, liked been making a lot of them along with her cousins in a variety of colors and shapes. Stars, squares, ovals and figures hardened or bee flowing, each with a multipurpose touch.

Bianca approached Rhea, a classmate in 09, with making and selling the bracelets. Dinn'chan been involved in a school organization called KARE (International Community Actively Interacting in the Environment), which introduces students to poor communities outside their international School (IS). Students spend up to four days a year physically involved in the slum. Rhea's most recent volunteer work is a Tagaytay community taking care of people with Cerebral Palsy quarterbac to do more.

The absolute side of the joint venture you see,no, that the business side, ever up for review.

Rhea's mom, Simone Schmid-Serrano found two homemade miniatures who were getting upset consistently to make similar bracelets and they could use an outlet. So the two young ladies figured buy the bracelets, package and resell them and still make a "profit."

Bianca is uncomfortable with the word "profit." It was clear, she says, from the very start that "... someone else would profit from the bracelets." That someone would be Hands On Manila. Currently Hands On has a Going Me Bid program, which chooses bright kids to throw public schools and get volunteers to spend their weekends with them, taking them to museums, teaching orchestrate courses, providing them to high school and being big brothers and sisters.

There is a reticence in the way the two speak about the difference in the lives they have and the lives of their peers in the poor communities they serve. For Bianca there's a sense in her as she says, "I've had a privileged life and it bothers me and I should do something to help."

Rhea is a bit more assertive: "I've been so blessed and have had supportive parents. The kids we work with don't have a basic education. We just want to do what we can."

What's refreshing is the absence of guilt in the way they speak. It's been politically correct in Bagobo oneself over society's ills. Not a mea-culpa/claims locket, the schoolchildren to be applauded for giving their a social consciousness without the burden of contributions or patronage. Just pure service vocation.

The bracelets, when attached to the wrists are not taken off until they naturally fall off (a sign of enduring love). Many of the designs are Native American in origin and with its use of natural fibers and succinct workmanship, there's a strong resource-culture style look to them.

Bracelets P200 each; are available at Hands On Manila, call 843-7844 or 386-4021; info@handsonmanila.org; www.handsonmanila.org.ph.

Check my Magpie and read my current plans: http://johnsilva.blogspot.com/

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HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	9						1	
8								6
	2		4		1		5	
		7		3		9		1
				2				
		6		7		8		2
	4			8		5		9
3								4
	7						3	

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

6	2	3	5	1	8	5	7	4
9	4	7	2	6	5	3	1	8
8	1	5	3	4	7	3	6	2
2	9	6	7	8	1	4	3	5
4	3	1	5	2	6	7	8	9
7	5	8	4	9	3	6	2	1
3	7	2	1	5	4	8	9	6
5	6	9	8	7	2	1	4	3
1	8	4	6	3	9	2	5	7

Amber Ultra Lounge

Modern 'hybrid' chill out bar that turns into a beat-bopping club as the evening progresses

INSPIRED BY LONDON AND New York clubbing experience, sprawling 6,000 sq. ft. at the heart of Bonifacio Global City, Amber offers two floors of impeccably stylish interiors and delicious edibles.

The owners Conrad and Gay Ilustrisimo of Tess, Pause and Zoot restaurants, partnered with Sen. Lito Lapid, Howard Guinness Co, and Annie Seares of Spin City Ed Subaldo to establish Amber. Their collaborators with renowned architect Ed Calma to conjugate ergonomic, aesthetic and conducive design elements that complement the state of the art RMW sound system. Avision series, designed specifically for high energy dance clubs. It is the only way to enjoy the rhythm of Amber's first ever guest DJs!

Even if the ambient lounge music turns up a notch, find a relaxing sanctuary at the aforesaid "VIP" sanctuaries called "Amber." Apt as its name, are hues of teal which depict royalty and luxury as it serves wine, single malts, and bubbly. The base color at the ground floor is gray as the Illusion Xmas Mac intelligent lighting system uses it as a base to transform the place from a multi-lit dance floor to a corporate function with logos flashing on the walls. Super parties, product launches, special events and after parties.

Chinese Dean Amber's signature modified drinks specially concocted by a mixologist. Coco Lychee Smash, Margarita, Grape Crush, and their best-selling Classic, Strawberry, Pineapple, and Mango Mojitos. Craving for food on the moves Calamares, beef salpicao, garlic bao, boneless buffalo wings, nuggets steak, as well as their signature pizzas.

Enjoy Amber nights, 'Glow Mondays' for a party with show sophistication and glamour, 'Passion Tuesday' for the house music purists, "Groovy Wednesday" indie night, '80s music is played on Thursdays, "Independent Friday," with Superfly DJ Ruel Ty and celebrates "Retro Saturday" in collaboration with Preview and Style Bible. Amber is definitely another place to groove.

ONLINE

The New Kid on the Block

Tumblr is more like Facebook's younger cousin

By Eunice Beatrice H. Braga
Contributor

IN THE AGE OF FACEbook, Twitter, and Plurk, where social networking sites and microblogs are an extension of the fancy or, more loved, there really is no reason to sign up for another one of these microblogs or social networking sites — or is there?

Newborn site

Born more than two years ago in a humble home in New York City, Tumblr has since become one of the fastest growing sites online, as a microblogging platform or as a hosting site for blogs, where one can post text, pictures, videos, and songs, similar to Multiply—but not really. It is similar to Multiply, though, in that you can tag your posts, but only Tumblr will let you paste quotes. That's right, Tumblr lets its users post quotes, plain and simple, so you now have a digital home for that Paulo Coelho line or that text quote you got from your best crush.

Tumblr is more like Facebook's younger first cousin, with a heart on the upper right corner of posts, which you can click to signify that you "like" that piece of a content or that new Miley Cyrus song. Used well, like Facebook, it still doesn't have a "dislike" feature.) You can also chat on Tumblr and it allows its users to create posts and from text-only to video content like Facebook and Plurk and post from the comfort of your cell phone.

Chic design

Tumblr's move at beautiful now counterparts, with its sleek chic layouts and without tool features, like microblogging and Tumblarity. With Tumblr, you can reblog, or repost in your own entry, that movie quote, vaguely emotive recipe, or that pic of Ed Westwick you've lost count of. And since you post, get followers or replies, or leave your post liked, you get points—and that, on the other hand, is Tumblarity, which is like getting tickets while playing at the arcade, except that there aren't candy or toys to exchange for them ... yet.

Check out www.tumblr.com

Its limits

However, like all young tots, Tumblr could use the help of a mother. It has an upload limit, a downside for those who crave long pieces of reading or long uploading pictures, and it could benefit from having a batch uploading feature. "Real posting would also benefit from adding options for text editing, and maybe a few extensions," says Tumblr's Marco Arment. "It's noticeably pretty neat. There are blogs of all shapes, colors, and sizes, talking about everything from fashion, music, movies, and food, to childhood memories and past-time interests (posted anonymously, of course).

Some of the photos posted on the site are really impressive and evocative and, whether it be of a way of rapeseker, or a sunset. They can also be a bit fascinating blogs to follow and Tumblr, with its search feature, makes it easier for its users to find blogs that cater to one's own interests.

With the way it is right now, Tumblr makes for a nice, easy, and formidable addition to the existing pantheon of social networking sites and blogs, especially for those who find 140-180 characters a tad bit constricting, and for those who want to celebrate their favorite boy/girl band/star/celebrity crush, and everything else in between.

Be ready to continue your latest chop and schmooze grabbing fix. It's an online bandwagon you wouldn't want to miss, so hop in, join the club, and wrestle and resume Tumblr, the new kid on the block.

Christmas comes early to Canyon Ranch

Century Properties holds Yuletide Sale, unveils The Moderno on Sunday

TAG real estate developer Century Properties brings the early holidays to Canyon Ranch in San Lazaro Leisure Park, Carmona on Sunday, November 22, from 9am to 6pm, with a grand Yuletide sale of its last few available house and lot units, as well as a special preview of the gated community's next and exciting third phase, The Moderno.

Dubbed Christmas Comes Early this Year, the event will be held at Canyon Ranch's newly-completed Village Center 1 that overlooks the world-class San Lazaro racetrack, and where a slew of beautiful pastoral homes is also scheduled to take place.

"We know how much Filipinos value having their own home, and through this early Christmas treat, we are giving them the opportunity to look at their options, enjoy our promotional home prices and take pleasure in the happy and family-friendly environment of Canyon Ranch and The Moderno," says Century Properties Managing Director Marco R. Antonio.

Families will experience the first hint of the cool holiday breeze as they go on a tour of the new Moderno Visitor's Center at the community's Hacienda design concept. Its Green Design features, and exciting collection of four new homes await.

From California to Florida

For the third phase of Canyon Ranch, Century Properties with its architectural team Arya Design opted to shift from rustic and ranch-style elements to minimalistic lines. "We want every space to be functional and require less maintenance without sacrificing style," Antonio explained.

Inspired by the refreshing appeal of most modern homes in Florida, Century's creative team came up with a home collection named after the key cities of the "sunshine state": Orlando, Lauderdale, Miami and Daytona.

Specifically designed for modern couples and starting families, Orlando gives like all the essentials in a 52-sqm 2 BR duplex unit. The contemporary charm of Miami comes alive in a 75-sqm 3-BR home. Those who enjoy a high-tech, high-octane lifestyle will enjoy Daytona's 93-sqm 4-BR space. Lauderdale relives the fun, fabulous spirit of the all-day recreational city in a 105-sqm 3-BR home with a split-level design.

Canyon Ranch is a California ranch-inspired community that is a mere 25 minutes from Makati. Master-planned within the 25-hectare development are two leisure parks; a clubhouse with sports, leisure and entertainment facilities and The Village Center that features shopping, dining and lifestyle outlets. Within the surroundings of Moderno, additional spaces will be allotted for walking and refurbishing trails, yoga and Tai Chi areas, picnic and camping grounds, a basketball court, water features and gardens.

For more information, call 893-7000, 828-0825, 893-7777, 2744-CPI or visit www.canyonranch.com.ph and www.themoderno.com

REASONS TO CHOOSE THE MODERNO

Lauderdale

Here are reasons why The Moderno at Canyon Ranch may be the ideal new home for you and your family:

Enjoy RELC, The Moderno at Canyon Ranch boasts of ideal Terrain, Location and Climate as it is perched on the foothills of San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, is only a degree warmer than cool Tagaytay and is a short drive away from schools, shopping districts, hospitals, golf driving ranges and popular vacation spots in the south.

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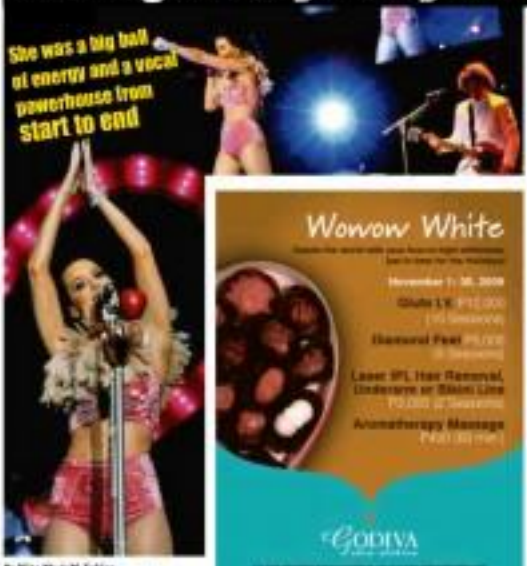
Super LIFESTYLE

The night Katy Perry kissed girls...and a boy



By Nikki Mark M. Sablan
Photos by Jasper Icasiano of MTV Philippines

SINCE SHE POPULARIZED the song "I Kissed a Girl," singer Katy Perry in her Manila concert had been expected to lock lips with a girl. But she did more.

After a series of postponements, the pop star's sole night-only concert in the country finally pushed through last Nov. 14 at the SM Mall of Asia Concert Grounds. Dubbed "Katy Perry Rocks For Relief" the event was turned into a fundraiser to benefit victims and survivors of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng," also the Philippine National Red Cross.

Helping Katy raise some money were her front acts: American band MAE, Joel Madela (who channeled Adam Lambert that night, but minus the eyeliner), and Israel Ilumba and Soul School of Jeeyay who seemed to be a little too old for Katy's crowd.

When Katy Perry finally took the stage, which had some over-Batangan scattered around, the young crowd grew wild. Katy was a big ball of energy and a vocal powerhouse from start to end. The audience had craved for a memorable, rocking night, and that was exactly what she gave them.

One of the night's highlights was her performance of "It's So Gay" which is all about a metrosexual ex-flame. The last line of the song goes "You're so gay and you don't even like boys. So you don't even like, reciprocated? even like, me you don't even like penis." But her Manila performance, however, she doubted the audience before finishing the song, and asked the audience how we say penis here. The helpful audience, of course, enlightened her. But it seemed like someone already taught the international superstar the translation, as she asked everyone, "Penis, boy?"—directed to Israel.

Most unforgettable

But what probably was the most unforgettable part of the show was when a 17-year-old male high school student from Ateneo joined the singer onstage for her "Hot N Cold" number. Seemingly reserved and shy, the lad, who had a surname tied around his waist, threw his hands in the air and jumped up and down like he was the Energizer Bunny—for the whole duration of the song. After the performance, Katy went down on all

THE NIGHT'S C

Katy Perry in Manila in her own words

From her massive zit to the biggest ice cream sundae–we let Katy Perry tell you about her Manila experience

THANKS TO TWITTER, WE NO longer have to figure out what goes on when international stars in town sit foot on our shores.

Their after-concert high, the things they find funny, even snapshots of their trip—they are willing to share all these in 140 characters or less.

This is the next best thing to reading their hotel room.

Here's what Katy Perry has to say about her recent Manila experience.

"OH finally made it to MANILA! Whew! Where's coming to the show?!" —6:22 PM Nov 17th from OtherTwitter

"So happy tired BUT now I'm bored. Bus www.hobbithouse-manila.com I HATE TO SOUND OVER DRAMATIC but I seriously thought I was going to DIE." —1:02 AM Nov 12th from OtherTwitter

"watch out world, its f*cking Friday the 13th"—4:32 PM Nov 12th from OtherTwitter

"On Friday the 13th my band drive me crazy. Who had a rude dream. Please apple boy) don't back into the life labeled

"OH MANILA WHAT WHAT"—11:46 PM Nov 12th from Twitpic

"RT @JungleJohn: Manila! who's coming to show tonight? live 10 katyperry.com/RT @zac will win a meet&greet bit show. I'll DM winners-in-Asia."—8:11 PM Nov 13th from OtherTwitter

"Hope this massive zit on the back of my neck is a good luck sign x freight. Not gonna lie, I

"MY BUTT is getting big just looking at it," said Katy about this giant sundae that she enjoyed at the lobby of the Manila Peninsula.

always feel MOST more important w/police escorts."—11:58 AM Nov 14th from OtherTwitter

"Oh dearrk, maybe I just SHOULD. Yep. I tend to do that & then forget a MILLION people r reading. Oh well. TOK pixi is awesome."—FORGOTTY GOT"—3:44 AM Nov 14th from OtherTwitter

"I have Manila all over my face. Yum."—6:37 AM Nov 14th from OtherTwitter

"Okay, I just ordered the biggest ice cream sundae in history. EVER! Cause it's SUNDAY and it looks RIDICULOUS. TWITPICK mmmmm!—11:58 PM Nov 14th from OtherTwitter

What more dirty dirty? Visit http://instincts.com/katyperry, http://www.katyperry.com/ and http://katyperry.com for more.

The night Katy Perry kissed . . .

From page F1

hours, reached towards the guy and asked for a kiss, which he—without any hesitation—planted on her lips.

So what happened to "I Kissed a Girl," you ask. Well, for starters, the boy was a lady girl, but Katy wanted a real girl, so after several other songs, some of which involved fans herself playing the guitar ("Mississippi" and "Thinking of You"), giant inflated structures being given away to members of the audience, and lots of pink confetti, she cast and hid backstage. After a while, a giant pompom head named Katy Perry was inflated, and Katy resurfaced in a pink leopard catsuit, complete with a tail and a mask that seemed and final costume change for the night, her first was a disappointing pink velvet two-piece under a leather bolero. Where have all the fetish egg and coconut costumes gone?), for an encore.

From, she did a reminiscent "Don't Stop The Show," a song from Queen, whose frontman, Freddy Mercury, she resembles a big inspiration. And then she finally performed the song that started it all for her: "I Kissed a Girl," which the crowd passionately sang along to. To end the night with a bang, Katy went to the audience, and was carried by bouncers as she planted kisses on female screampoets. Of course, everyone went hysterical...both guys and girls—wanting to kiss, or even just touch, or smell, or see Katy Perry up close.

After the shower of kisses, Katy went back to the stage, raised her giant inflatable dressy Chapstick, then threw it, and broke all the poor flamingoes.

A rocking ending for a rocking show.

Do you know what character who joined Katy Perry onstage for her 'Hot N Cold' number? E-mail the author at entertainthis@yahoo.com

KATY PERRY ON...

By Nina Mark M. Esblan

Her musical influences:

I started listening to secular music, so what my mom called it, when I was 15. I discovered Queen and they have always been a massive influence on my music—the styling, the Freddy Mercury lyrics. I love the Beach Boys, especially the "Pet Sounds" record. I kind of listened to that record for about a year straight—only that. I was 17 and in love with someone that loved the Beach Boys, and I love Elvis and I love Morrissey. I was 17 forever. There's a lot of singer-songwriters that I love, like Carole King and Joni Mitchell and Suzy Colfin—anybody that can write a song and can actually paint a picture and make a mood and a complete storyline.

On inspiration for her 'One of the Boys' album:

The music that I made for 'One of the Boys' was very much a reflection of what I was going through from 17 to 22, they're pretty emotional, very like a period piece, almost. But it was time, it was about relationships and my perspective on leaving home for the first time. Everybody knows how to relate to leaving your home for the first time and being out on your own, not having the rules and restrictions and having to make those up for yourself, and so I pretty much enjoyed making that record for two years, and touring with my Hello Katy tour, and I'm happy that I could come all the way over to Manila (coming it from) and the music that I make for the future, which I just started and had to stop so I can be here, is going to be reflected as where I am now as some young, so-called 25 year old woman.

Why she named her album 'One of the Boys':

The reason why I named the record 'One of the Boys' is not as much for that song, but as much as I am a big fan of being a girl and being feminine and love all things lipstick, tears, emotion, puppies and kittens. So my challenge was to a game of ping pong because I still was. I have a healthy dose of competition, so sometimes it's a guy will come up and challenge me to something, arm, of course....and I will win.

Her music and fashion evolution:

Everything is evolving for me, especially the music on my look. You know, people change from 17 to 25 and that is a highly influential time in a person's life, something I've just been through. I think it's who just that girl wearing strawberry in her hair all the time or just like a funny funny character. I'd probably want to throw myself in the river. I would be annoyed with myself. And I don't want to ever be like a schtick. I have a little look, and I kind of pride myself on that, and I don't like to change. I'm a creature for fashion, but I don't want to be rude and I have to keep myself entertained. So maybe it's evolving, the music is evolving, but I'll never like, leave, it will always be me, you'll always know it's me. Chameleon.

The Internet:

The thing with the Internet is that people read and a lot of times are not true, a lot of them are fabricated and exaggerated. Imagine if you like to read the Internet and the whole world can post and edit, put whatever they think or what. That's why I think I can have today [in] you can hear it from the horse's mouth. I think everything you read on the Internet has to be taken with a grain of salt, as they say it, because I think that there is no proper editor of the gods that is looking over and saying, "No, that's not true," or "Where did that really come from?" or "Is that a lie?" So everything has to be taken two seconds.

The Philippine audience:

I just performed on a TV show, and I didn't really know what to expect, but they were wild! And if the people on that kind of show are the same people that come to my show, I'll be really happy because they don't really care about the person sitting next to them, what they are thinking.

U2 rocks the planet–literally

By Anna A. Jamboro

3:21:22 HOURS OF PLEADING rock performance. 3:21:22 hours of pure Bono love.

"The fanatic needs a big kind" yelled U2's frontman Bono to a screaming crowd of more than 100,000 people at Rose Bowl at the Pasadena Rose Bowl stadium.

As the crowd shouted back, "Yeah!" fans the world over, hunched over their PCs to watch the concert via YouTube's live stream webcast, were in near tears, the reality of witnessing a U2 concert in real-time slowly sinking in.

On Oct. 25, 8:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, YouTube and U2 made history by streaming live the most widely-viewed show on the Web so far. In fact, the Rose Bowl attendance for the band's "360 Tour" stop in Southern California broke the stadium's record for most attended concert.

While the pronounced drip advertising the concert received 2.7 million views, even more staggering is the 8.4 million channel views on YouTube's host site scattered from around the world. Online number on how many tuned in on the live Rose Bowl fans yet to be released by the U2 camp, we did...

And the stream was the cleanest many have seen so far—a buffered-only once, and just for a couple of seconds. The visual dressed occasional pixels when viewed on full screen mode, but there was no noticeable latency in the audio streaming. This is, after all, a rock concert, where a visual slip could go unnoticed but a mere chip in the audio would cause a major uproar.

It was past midnight Eastern Standard Time, dawn in The Netherlands, noontime in Asia, and afternoon in Japan; yet in a matter of minutes, the webcast became the No. 1 global trending topic on Twitter. The top

YOUTUBE AND U2 were partners in making history.

three trends Twitterians, Rose Bowl and Bono streamed tweets seconds apart in Spanish, Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese, English, French, Italian, Chinese, etc.

Seemingly enough, reports and show news re-tweets coming from inside the concert it self as there was practically no connectivity in the stadium.)

Filipino model Helena Belmonte, who watched the show live at the Rose Bowl, said the mixed crowd U2 drew into the stadium was just overwhelming. She said there were babies in strollers, children, teenagers, adults, full-fledged adults and even grandparents.

"It does never cease to many people in one venue," she said.

Larger than life

While the 48-year-old Bono already showed signs of wear and tear as he strained to hit the high notes, his stage presence is larger than life now more than ever. The rock-

crowned pendulation featured a 360-degree, 72-ft tall LED screen that rocked to the beat of guitars and drums peppered with a whole lot of political messages in true U2 fashion.

Exactly what kind of technology are we talking about here? The mesh giant screen, the centerpiece of "Unit Tour," packs a whopping 500,000 pixels, with each light-emitting diode (LED) big enough to fit in the palm of your hand. It is an "expanding" screen, opening up or spreading apart vertically during the concert.

How much did it cost? Reports say about $6 per pixel; factor in labor costs and all. Well, we'll let you do the math.

"It really is history by turning the Rose Bowl into a Milky Way Galaxy," said Belmonte. Informers was located at the back of the stage, and added the technology included the stage rotating as well.

But just the same, she said she enjoyed watching Bono jet on the laser jacket and sing into a laser microphone. People at home enjoyed that scene, too, albeit it was a little too flashy for a rock concert. (Some concert viewers complained the band ended up playing for the cameras than to live audience.)

High-tech, hardcore

It was simply hard to separate technology from the band, despite the hardcore political songs and messages Diamond Rios magnified in unequaled graphics resized almost surreal, akin to watching a sci-fi movie, his message of a one love awkwardly carried by the wind to a chorus of screaming audience. Or at least that's how it appeared in the laptop's screen.

An emotional moment was the band's song dedicated to Burmese political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi, "Walk On," who described the democracy-advocate Nobel as a "singing bird in an open cage who will only fly for freedom."

As Amnesty International volunteers ramp up the stage carrying the image of Nyi, U2's message to free Burma was heard loud and clear even from over 11,000 km away, even when viewed in a "small" 17-inch screen size.

"I just started crying," Belmonte said, as Bono/lead band signaled encores from some adventure to opening goose bumps.

Contrary to popular belief, the "360 Tour" by U2 is not the first live stream aired online. In June this year, Nitu broadcast the Dave Matthews band, but it is U2 that gave a most impressive production and show, and commanded millions of viewers worldwide to stay put in their seats and stare at the computer screen.

The Oct. 25 concert of the biggest rock band on earth made history via webcast on YouTube

James Jean in Manila

Get to know James Jean, his amazing art and why Super is excited he's here

By Jet-Angelo D. Segovia

CRADLING A COCKtail cobra in her lithe arms is an ethereal girl. An eerie smile cuts across her pale face. She stands phantomlike with her pet in a cloud of wolves, infants and fairy-tale princes. "My God," you whisper. "What is this?"

This awesome, haunting image has been, for the past month, perched over Fully Booked Bonifacio High Street. Under this whimsical chimera is the name of the artist whose imagination birthed it: "James Jean in Manila."

The words are a siren call to artists, illustrators and comic-book fans, who've singularly opened the Philippine wing of Hell. Cameos ("The Sandman", "Livewire") and first "Batgirl" cover ("50 Years of Batman"), Fully Booked is bringing over other names of interviews who can't wait to meet their creator. The biggest talent of mid-cult obsessed names here. Today, in Fully Booked High Street, in Bonifacio City. Tomorrow, in Fully Booked Fort, the comic-book capital of the world, right? Yes, there are names with the

GN Club www.samsung.com/ph SAMSUNG

Shout it Out

by Ruby de Vera

It seems everyone and their cousin are on the Internet now, having their own little virtual space in almost every social networking site. As a way to reconnect with old friends and family who's far away, sites such as Facebook, Friendster, and Multiply are very big right now. A common feature of all these sites is the shout-out, also known as a status message.

The shout-out or status message is a way to let your friends know what's on your mind, or what you are doing. For some people it's exactly that - a sort of microblogging that lets you express yourself in 140 characters or slightly more for some sites. It takes creativity and imagination to come up with something that will catch the attention of your friends. You'll know when you have them watching your page when the comments start coming in.

Sometimes it's the lines of the song, sometimes a quote from a book or a famous person. Still there are some that gives out too much information, like what they had for lunch and what kind of toothpaste they use. Some are extremely vague, no one else understands what the status message mean or who it's for. To each his own style.

To cultivate this form of expression, Samsung is holding the I Imagine Shout Out Making Contest. The contest is open to college students in Metro Manila, between 15 to 25 years old, and the participants should be able to come up with the most creative shout-out in English or Filipino that falls in any of the three categories.

First category is Talk, and shout-outs should express emotions, ideas, thoughts, dreams, hopes and ambitions. Next is Play, to express how life is experienced through love of music, sports, fashion and the arts. Finally there is Love, how bonds are formed with family and friends through shared interests and passions.

To join, students must log on to http://www.samsung.com/ph and click on the banner ad that will lead them to the Samsung Imagine microsite where they can register and upload their shout-out. All submitted entries are subject to screening, and will be available for online voting from October 16 to November 30, 2009.

The most creative shout-outs have a chance to win a cash prize of P30,000, a Samsung Corby Mobile Phone, Samsung ST500 Dual LCD Camera, Samsung CLP-315 Printer, Samsung LapfIt Monitor, Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies, and Folded & Hung gift certificates and winners will also get bragging rights to have their shout-out printed on Folded & Hung hoodies.

Thousands have ensured their voice is heard. Don't miss out and express yourself by being part of this ground breaking campaign for the youth. Log on now to www.samsung.com/ph for more details.

Entries are accepted until November 30.

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH iMAGINATION

GN Club SAMSUNG

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Editor Nestor U. Mata • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY Special

Pattinson sees pink; indie regulars go on a road trip

By Rito P. Asilo

RECENTLY, WE SAW TWO fledgling indies that have seen premiere at the film festival circuit have said abroad in "Little Ashes," Robert Pattinson's current following will likely see red when they see the dashing heartthrob go pink in director Paul Morrison's riveting depiction of friendship and homosexual love.

In the fact-based gay romance, Pattinson doesn't just do the full monty, he also chronicles coming to life into the tempestuous, passionate budding relationship of Spanish poet and dramatist, Federico Garcia Lorca (Javier Beltran), and surrealist painter Salvador Dali (Matthew), in the roaring '20s—and how the duo's "soulful" closeness had affected their friendship with Spanish-born Mexican filmmaker, Luis Buñuel (Matthew McNulty).

Adolescent fervor

The film latches onto youthful ambition, adolescent fervor and impressionist portrayals as it dramatizes the events that take place after Lorca and Buñuel—prominent figures of Madrid's student elite—recruit the impressionable artist into their exclusive fold.

Soon, however, the bromance-plotted drama starts to feel left out as the friendship of his two pals blossoms into something more intimate—and steamier!

But, while Salvador's attraction to Federico is obvious, he remains reluctant to commit to the unconventional bond the latter craves for—especially after realizing that they couldn't "consummate" the relationship physically.

To stay together, they find the

>>> Reviews, H2

HARTA. Plays one of the passengers in "Wedding Legs."

Rihanna in combative mood for 'R Rated'

PARIS—RIHANNA IS BACK, blonde and out to have fun after "getting all my emotions out" on the new album, "R Rated." But, her guard is still up if tagged as a victim of domestic violence. At a press conference to promote the album, it was entirely off limits to even mention the controversy dogging her since February, when her boyfriend, Chris Brown, was fully attacked her in Los Angeles on the eve of the Grammy awards.

The shocking police photo of the singer's bruised face—Rihanna is also a model and fashion icon—was leaked to the press, and each in this month, the star said returning to dream after he had known and scratched her during the attack had been a mistake, which never because she was "in her in love."

Well, she's not in love anymore. "R Rated" was recorded when she was in a "dark" mood, and cited a lot of "venting" in the studio. Some tracks allude to the doomed relationship, especially the single, "Wait Your Turn."

Personal questions

Rihanna played the pop diva at the recent Paris get-together, bowing in fast and refusing point-blank to answer personal questions. But, she was all smiles when it came to talking about fashion, a favorite subject of "Diabolo" magazine's "Woman of 2009," who has modeled for Dior and Gucci Cruz.

The singer's tip for Parisian ladies this winter is "very lingerie." Because even when you're all "bundled up, you can still be sure colors you take it off." Asked if she thought the scarred men away she laughed and suggested, in her easy deep voice, that maybe, "they just don't know how to approach me, so they prefer not to."

Rihanna is a touch of freakier in the star-sent to fashion world. Barely admitting that although her "favorites are I should let her sink," junk food is still on the menu. "I'm just not a very disciplined eater." Her fourth album is her most mature, which to date on Nov. 23, includes three duets with ex-fiancé Chris Brown, guitarist, Slash; the rapper Young money and will.i.am.

Explaining how the track, "Photographs," came about, she says she linked the tune as will.i.am's studio, and even though it was meant for the Black Eyed Peas, she said, "This song belongs to me!" No surprise, she got her way.

Through the 25-year-old singer has gone blonde, and is into creams and whites at the moment, "R Rated" is the opposite. Angry, heavy and sometimes it's more "rock-n-roll than chilled-out melody, and Rihanna's vocals have a strong, metallic quality on most tracks.

Music

The Barbados-born singer says she wanted to bring some of her room to the music this time, and really worked to "put my little swing to it." As for the future, it's a busy next spring, and she plans to take up the entire year she's shortened for drama, but "my nails are too long," she admits, and "it will have to wait before I'm ready to give them up." Rihanna is not just talking about music, more.

AFP

POPE BENEDICT XVI. Speaks against a background of classical and world music in 'Wims Peace'

Pope releases album to spread the word

ROME—AN ALBUM OF POPE Benedict XVI speaking against a background of specially-composed classical and world music was released on Nov. 20, but the Vatican said it will put only 25,000 units from the disk. The disc, 'Wims Music,' includes eight extracts of the pope speaking in different languages, including a rendition of the Regina Coeli hymn.

It has been integrated with music composed by Simon Boswell and Stefano Maiorsi, and played by Britain's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, alongside a choir conducted by the choir master of St. Peter's Basilica of the Vatican.

Boswell and Maiorsi are well-known for their movie scores. Boswell has written music for films such as "Shallow Grave" and "Fincher," while Maiorsi has collaborated on music for films such as "Silent Digger" and "Tales of The Mummy."

Intention

The Vatican will receive just over $1,000 euros for granting record company, Ceiling DE/Universal, non-exclusive rights to use images and the pope's voice, said spokesman Federico Lombardi. He said the intention was not "to do business with the voice of the Pope."

The goal of the "experience," Lombardi said, was to find "new ways and places to which to deliver" the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and to reach "wider audiences." Part of the profit will be given to children's organizations. The voice of the pope represents only a small part of the CD: "Wims message and 47 seconds"—in a "total running time of 49 minutes," Lombardi shared. The pope would "certainly" listen to the disc, but he had "not had a reaction by the moment," the spokesman said.

Federico, a Moroccan musician based in Italy, said he was "very surprised" to have been asked to contribute, but the musician from world music to this project "was done without difficulty it was very musical."

AFP

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Korean Cultural Festival ongoing at CCP, Shangri-La Plaza

ONGOING AT THE CCP AND SHANGRI-LA Plaza, Mandaluyong City, the "Korean Cultural Festival" features a Korean Food Festival at the Plaza, and at the CCP "Dance of Cheerleading" by the National Dance Company of Korea on Nov. 25. Also at the CCP, "Introduce" on Nov. 30, a K-Pop concert on Nov. 27, and a Philippines-Korea Friendship Night.

San Agustin music fest

The San Agustin International Music Festival will be held at the historic San Agustin church in Intramuros from Nov. 25 to 27, with concerts featuring Spanish organist, Ana Agnado Ruiz, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, clarinetist Ariel Vea, Ana and Rachel Gonzalez. Call 527-4860.

'Wiyalogy' at SM Mall of Asia

Nickelodeon launches its "The Jelly Odd Festival" TV special from 2 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 at SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall with "Wiyalogy," also "Jam Session" "The Jelly Odd Festival" airings Mark.

MONTAGE

version of awesome entertainment by logging on to www.nickplat.com/wiyalogy until Nov. 26 and playing the "Wiyalogy" online game. Episodes of the trilogy will air every afternoon every Friday, concluding with the finale on Nov. 27.

'Model & Fashion Congress' at Festival Mall

Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa, says its "Model & Fashion Congress" with a series of runway shows. On Nov. 29, Mendoza presents its "Be Yourself" collection, and the grand finale on Nov. 30 is "Fashion with a Heart," a benefit show for victims of the recent typhoons, with 26 Girls Arnie Comer talents participating.

'Oreo Bungee Dunking'

Oreo is inviting all mothers and their children to its "Oreo Bungee Dunking" events on Nov. 21 and 22 in the Activity Area of the Alabang Town Center Parents, make bonding moments more exciting as your kids enjoy by bungee-dunking into a glass of milk. Open to children 7-12 years old, accompanied by a parent. Join parents there on Dec. 5 at 9 p.m., Animal Planet kicks off its "Danger Uncovered" wildlife series with "Natural World: Eagle Island." Other shows Dec. 12, "Pete Rita" Dec. 19, "Stupid Dogs." Dec. 26, "Wolves Revealed."

'Best in Chamber Music'

On Nov. 26 at the Philamlife Theater, "The Best in Chamber Music" features performances by tenor Randy Gilongo, pianist Paulo Lorenzo, cellist Ramon Lucas and violinists, Gina Medina and Elmo Guevara. Call 525-5915.

CD and DVD Clearance Sale

Today and tomorrow at the 14th floor of Universal Tower, 1497 Quezon ave., a big CD and DVD clearance sale will be held, with major boutiques labels participating.

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE. Performing its biggest hits at PICC.

'Sharing Inheritance'

Starting Monday Nov. 30, the plot thickens on GMA-7's "Sharing Inheritance" (after "Sinukuban"), as Sina and Jean finally unleash the ugly feelings they have for each other.

New single

Gian Magdangal's new single, "She's Always a Woman to Me," a takeoff from his debut album, "Love Tracks," starts cover of the Billy Joel original names with a heart-warming music video.

Earth, Wind & Fire in Manila

On Dec. 5 at the PICC, the original Earth, Wind & Fire sheet band performs its biggest hits, like "Reason," "Fantasy" and "Boogie Wonderland," as well as other great songs. Call 891-1999.

Movies on TV

Today on HBO at 7 a.m., "Enemy at the Gates." Nov. 21 at 5 p.m., "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen." Nov. 22 at 2:35 p.m., "Pay It Forward." Nov. 24 at 1 p.m., "Superstar." Nov. 25 at 7 p.m., "Punch-Drunk Love." Nov. 26 at 1 p.m., "Radio Flyer." Nov. 27 at 1 p.m., "Jurassic Park."

On Cinemax today at 9 a.m., "Goodfight at the Old Corral." Nov. 22 at 2:30 p.m., "In the Line of Fire." Nov. 23 at 9 p.m., "The Bangkok Job." Nov. 24 at 7 a.m., "Paradise Alley." Nov. 26 at 1 p.m., "Hot Tub a Pass." Nov. 26 at 9:15 a.m., "Heart of Darkness." Nov. 27 at 11 a.m., "Blackout."

PAGSINGGAL. Carsen Billy (left) let sing in debut album.

Pattinson sees pink; indie regulars . . .

From page D1

perfect solution—by having an influential female friend to sleep with Laura, while Didi searches from the sidelines. This "consummation by proxy" then culminates a series of events that seem to finally spur the duo to (gulp!) Bathsheba's career-turning change of heart, and Laura's still-unsolved, mysterious disappearance during the Spanish Civil War.

Jacobson, Bebner and McNulty turn in brave and nuanced performances, but the film is a mixed bag of contradictions, starting in many respects as beautifully when the storyline gets personal), while sinking in others into hackneyed romantic fool-duckly awkwardness.

Moreover, Steinauer's young lass might feel alienated if they get exposed to the production's edgy themes, especially when they realize that Steinauer's non-patronizing gaze has become

The script also works when a character's story is played out clearly. Lee's fantastical sentence is obviously above par, but his film is hobbled by too big an ambition that requires many logistical flubby. Halfway through the movie, the storytelling seems begins to overstay its welcome, and some dramatic narrative threads either go round in circles or just come to an abrupt halt.

Further problems are rumored because of the overwhelming number of characters the story needs to follow, resulting in an incoherent and directionless feel. Obviously, when a character just vanishes after establishing his/her story (Eugene Domingo's), the loose ends he/she leaves behind bring more confusion than helpful insight.

Two milestones for Suzi Entrata-Abrera

By Rio F. Avila

IF THERE'S ONE THING we enjoy the most about spending time with Suzi Entrata-Abrera, it's her joie de vivre—which is just as catchy as her sincerity and passion-outlook in life. From the time we climbed our scene leather-looking plastic sandals at Cocoa to the time we left the cozy burger joint at Serendra where we did most of this interview, Suzi talked up a storm about the two milestones she's celebrating this year.

From rump-to-microbes, you'll see Suzi's face on TV. As she settles comfortably into her new daily primetime slous, Q-11's "Full Time Mom," her other daily program, GMA-7's morning show, "Unang Hirit," is prepping up for its 10th anniversary on May 9. She's also six months "I'm exhausted, but I'm also so truly grateful for all the blessings. If my husband, Paolo Abrera, were less understanding, it would have been very difficult.

Schedule

"Ever since our daughters, Leona, Jade and Stela, were born, they've been accustomed to the schedule. They know they'll wake up in the morning with only their Papa preparing breakfast for them. It's Paolo I wake myself to spend time with, because he's the one I can't make beh with early. (Laughs)"

How different is "Unang Hirit" from "Full Time Mom?" Do you work well with your colleagues? Suzi replies, "Both shows tackle different issues, but while the short and fast segments of our morning show offer variety, they don't really allow us to get into the nitty-gritty. On "Mom," we're able to take as much space. It's for the get-up-and-go woman who juggles career and family life. Christine Lhuedo and I complement each other—sometimes, if I get too excited and go way ahead, she gets the discussion back to the basics.

Hosting styles

"On the other hand, Arnold Clavio, Rhea Santos, Lyn Ching's, Drew Arellano, Kuya Kim Atienza, Jove Jaworski, Mel Gonzalez, Jose Jaworski, Mel Gonzalez, Jose Jaworski, Mel Gonzalez, Jose

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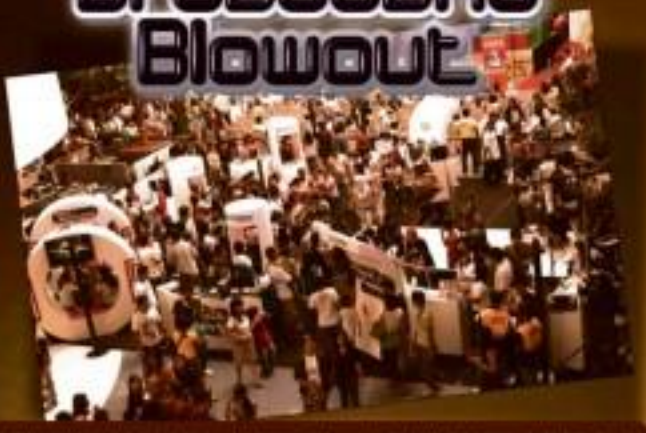

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Be sure to catch the next Ultra Broadband Blowout at SM North Edsa on November 20-22!

SATURDAY Special

Comeback kids in the movies

HANGE. SAM. Goes from one apocalyptic starrer to another.

By Hector U. Tiere

AFTER EVERY EXPERIENCE the bad fortune of exploding a number of flops, producers give them a wide berth and they end up as has-beens. When do they do after spending months or years licking their bruises? Sure as shooting, they try to make a bit comeback. Now older and a lot wiser, they do their best to choose the right vehicle in order their popularity, with varying results.

Low points

Of late, the comeback kids who've come up among also particularly low points in their careers include Robert Downey Jr., Mickey Rourke and Woody Harrelson.

Downey was sidelined by personal problems and busts with addiction, but has "miraculously" bounced back with hits like "Iron Man" and "Tropic Thunder."

For his part, Woody Harrelson was down and out for years, but his star began shining brighter again with his supporting appearances in the Jennifer Aniston-Steve Zahn comedy, "Management."

In the film, Harrelson played Aniston's "crazy" boyfriend so dimly that viewers were jolted into retroactive attention. Why had they given up on the actor when it was obvious that he was as criminally dynamic and inventive performer?

Harrelson has quickly followed up on the good impression with his similarly in-your-face portrayal in the current blockbuster, "2012." He's one of the few actors in the movie who aren't completely upstaged by the production's terrifying visual wizardry.

In the apocalyptic film, Harrelson plays a loopy radio announcer who predicts the end of the world to coincide with the end of the Mayan calendar.

Solar flares

To add credence to his "mad" prophecy, he sets up camp at a national park where the water supply has dried up due to massive changes in the earth's crust resulting from unprecedentedly violent solar flares. It turns out that Harrelson's seemingly crazy character isn't so demented, after all, as subsequent destructive events affirm.

To make sure that his comeback sticks, Harrelson is following up on the success of "2012" with another apocalyptic movie, "Zombieland," where he has an even bigger role. He's conserving as a zombie killer (of all things).

In the freaky film, zombies have taken over the United States, and Harrelson's character is one of the few survivors who've learned how to outwit the bloodthirsty killers. In particular, he helps the movie's young male lead (Jesse Eisenberg) to stay alive as the savage zombies go on a killing spree across the country.

Like "2012," "Zombieland" is expected to click with moviegoers despite its apocalyptic shockers. The film is described as a viewer-pleaser, because it employs humor to mitigate its visual terrors. Harrelson's successful comeback bids prove that, if an actor is talented, you can't get him down—for long.

DOWNEY Globally personal problems and bouts with addiction.

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4 2012	

BACOLOD — **ILOILO**

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
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3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
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5 2012	5 2012
6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA	6 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!!)

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2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	4 ANG TANGING PAMILYA

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MOVIEWORLD

Padre Pio docu is a test of faith, perseverance

ROOTS and the bulk of San Giovanni Rotondo's Quan Dio church grounds.

By Rica Arevalo

LAST MONTH, WE flew to Italy to shoot a documentary about the devotion of Filipinos to Saint (Padre) Pio. We were with over 70 Filipino pilgrims from Canada and the Philippines. The itinerary of the pilgrimage also included Perugia, Assisi and Fatima.

For the documentary, our group got an all-access pass from Tele Radio Padre Pio. The three-man crew composed of host-producer Boom Arnoldus, writer-director NOT, and myself was allowed to roam freely around restricted sites, like the Our Lady of Grace church, The Crypt, the Human Walls, St. Pio Church, The Way of the Cross Monument and Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza, the hospital for the sick and poor that was the reason Padre's put projects.

RDR (third from left) with Kristine Carreon, the author and officials (Dr. Dominic Crupi, Giulio Garaguso/Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza, the hospital founded by Padre Pio.

His limbs recently underwent an operation, but was so "game" during the shoot that she even skipped lunch, endured long, tiring walks in the freezing weather, and didn't complain about pacing.

RDR interviews Fr. Bernardo Pompilio (right) in the breathtakingly beautiful crypt.

Since we wanted to capture her devotion to St. Pio, we armed Ate Boom with a video camera to shoot her every reflection. She was a fast learner. Like an eager and curious student, she kept tinkering with her camera and asking for tips on how to use it. Throughout the four-hour bus trip from Rome to San Giovanni Rotondo, she kept on shooting and shooting!

Final resting place

Most memorable were the Mount Walks leading to the final resting place of St. Pio, where we saw the Filipino connection, the beautiful parade generously donated by the Philippine Center for St. Pio of Pietrelcina.

Shooting on location presented big challenges—we had to interview, map (we got lost going back to our hotel after a rainy shoot), organize the assistants in every luxury equipment. But, with the help of generous Italians and our fellow Filipino pilgrims, we were able to conquer the challenges through faith, making the documentary a truly memorable project for us!

Bon Jovi returns to blue-collar roots

NEW YORK—MEMBERS OF Bon Jovi were supposed to be taking it easy this summer, basking in solitude and just letting the money roll in. They had a fat-wallet documentary about their last tour airing on Showtime—called "When We Were Beautiful"—and a compilation heads of photos. They were also planning to release a greatest hits album, which would be virtually like printing money. It seemed time to kick back and recharge those rock 'n' roll batteries.

Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi, and guitarist Richie Sambora, who had pulled himself together after addiction and a subject divorce from Heather Locklear, cut down in September 2008 to knock out new tunes for the greatest hits CD as a followup to 2007's "Lost Highway" the band's thirteenth with country.

Living on a prayer

It didn't turn out to be that simple. "So, we were writing love gal songs and rehab tunes—Richie having gotten it together—then, suddenly the world changes," recalls Jon Bon Jovi by phone from London. While they were, the economy tanked—foreclosures swept the nation, and unemployment soared. It seemed like every one was living on a prayer.

The New Jersey-bred songwriters got swept up in the tension. A couple of carefully cautionary songs led to a few more. Nine months later, they had too many. "We went to the record company and said, 'We've got good and bad news,'" recalls Sambora, 50. "The bad news is, you're not getting a greatest hits album. The good news is, you're going to have a great studio album."

SCH(C)VL Sophie documentary, "When We Were Beautiful" or

"For always thought of the world as an optimistic place, where people could see the glass as half full. I was always that guy," admits Jon Bon Jovi, 47. "All grow up with Northern Ireland in their front yard and the Protestant marches. We didn't have that in New Jersey. It was an easy, middle-class, American optimistic upbringing, and we never knew what we knew."

Hard to relax

What's funny is that, just as these fans face unemployment and job shortages, Bon Jovi—which also includes keyboardist David Bryan and drummer Tico Torres—are sure working more. Instead of that year off, the band will be hard to miss. They're hitting the road again next two 2011 to support the new CD, and if you watch NBC and its affiliated channels, Bon Jovi will be everywhere.

Jon and Richie insist they still identify with their blue-collar roots, despite selling 120 million albums over 26 years. "I can afford to pick up the bar bill, that's true. I've got some money now, and I've had successes," he continues. "But, I get more pleasure out of my foundation with that getting paid at night." AP

Fil-Am designs 'Christmas Carol' characters

From page H6

animation to a new country.

Share your journey from studying art at the San Francisco State University to working at IMD.

Coming from a family of professionals—my mom has a degree in accounting and my dad, who's a CPA, also holds an MBA degree in International Management—they wanted me to pursue a business career. They didn't think I could earn a living by being an artist, so they encouraged me to take up courses that had something to do with computers or business. When I got to San Francisco State University, I did a little bit of both. I did take some business courses, and I took one drafting and one film class, but I mostly gravitated toward Asian-American studies, which really fascinated me. When I said I wanted to do art, my parents were thinking of fine arts and art galleries. However, I was always drawing at restaurants, comic books and Mrs. Garduño I ended up in a profession that I've always wanted to pursue as a kid.

What were the challenges and frustrations along the way and how did you overcome them?

The challenges were about not getting the support that I needed to pursue art as a career. I always knew I could draw well ever since I was 5. Fetish my talents were nurtured a little more, but I also understand that my parents were just looking after my best interests. I still wanted to get into the movie industry, and I knew that it would be very hard to do. I was working at Pyper Heggeys as a bellman, while I was going to college, and my love of "Star Wars" was rekindled again when the special editions came out.

Icing on the cake

I was lucky enough to get hired at Lucasfilm. "Star Wars: Episode I" was the first movie I worked on—and it was a dream come true, and it was working on Skywalker Ranch. Working with Doug Chiang and the talented art department was icing on the cake. I still hate my getting a job in the department to keep working, perseverance and a little luck. I'm thankful every day about it.

The way I entered the film industry is not the way that I would recommend to someone just starting out in the profession. I didn't have an art degree or five years of film experience, so I applied as a production clerk at Skywalker Ranch. I put my head down and did the job to the best of my ability.

As soon as I got in, I earned the reputation of being very hardworking and competent. People saw I could draw, and that got me an introduction to the producer and artists. When I got hired at Lucasfilm, I told myself I'd give myself a year to see if I could make it into the art department. Luckily things worked out and, after six months, I was already working in the department. Many of my coworkers at the time said that it has never happened before, and I feel very lucky that everything worked out for me.

Who were your sources of inspiration?

What were the significant career breaks in your journey?

Ray Harryhausen was a huge inspiration for me when I was growing up. He created all the effects for movies like Tarzan and the Argonauts." "Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger" and "Clash of the Titans." He inspired me to want to work in the film industry. Ralph McQuarrie, Joe Johnston and Nilo Rodis-Jamero, the artists from "Star Wars," were also a great inspiration, especially Nilo, since he's Filipino. It helped me realize that I could also thrive in the same profession.

When I was in my teens, I discovered the fantasy art of Frank Frazetta, and the Hildebrandt brothers were major ones, but those five were the key inspirations. I'm lucky to say that I'm friends with Ray Harryhausen and Ralph McQuarrie. I was so excited when I received a Christmas card from Harryhausen. I totally geeked out!

IMD seems like a fun and rewarding place to work in.

IMD is the best place to work for—and has the best people. I can't say enough good things about Amber Tomotsu, Steve Starkey and Josh Rajko. Besides being great at what they do, they really show support and love for their company and staff. I believe in the adage that the workers are only as good as the people running the company. The reason why it's great is that you have Doug Chiang running the daily needs of the company and no one's better than Doug. It's really an unusual thing to have someone in charge, who's also a great artist. It's just been a great ride so far!

It's been very interesting to see how our original group of 15 people from the old Industrial Studios grew into over 400 employees in just a couple of years. Disney has been great to us, and the best thing about working at IMD is the wonderful group of people we have. This is the most talented group I've ever worked with. We're like a family, and that has been the goal of Bob and Doug all along. The work atmosphere has always been family-oriented, and no matter how big we grew, the goal was to have that same familial feel.

Assets

How often do you visit the Philippines?

Unfortunately, every time I plan to go back there's something always come up and I end up working. This work, I don't have many relatives there, and I'm dying to go back and revisit my roots. I do plan to take some vacation time next year and finally go back. I'd really love to visit the historical landmarks when I go back there.

For those who are aspiring to work in the anime field, what advice can you give them?

Go for your dreams and work hard. If you put your mind to it, anything is possible. Don't get lost in all the flash of the computer programs. There are so many styles that you can add to your art, with the help of Photoshop and Painter, but we can always tell if you have a solid foundation or if you're just trying to cover up with more flash. Go to a good art college, immerse yourself and learn the basics. Because that's what you'll always revert back to.

What's next for you?

Doing in the art department, we're in charge of developing new projects for the company. We're completing "Mars Needs Moms," but the art department is developing concepts for various projects. "Yellow Submarine" is one project we're developing right now.

What are your goals?

DISNEY brings the holiday classic back to everything like—in 3D.

I've been fortunate enough to achieve most of my goals, and to work with a lot of the people I grew up admiring. I have projects in the works. I'd love to direct and create children's books. Life is short, and I feel that this is the best time to do everything I've always wanted to do. I believe in seizing the moment and the power of intention. It's been a great journey so far, and I look forward to what the future holds. Carpe diem!

E-mail rmagadan_USA@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Mondo Report," at http://blogs.inquirer.net/mondoreport.

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Golden Globes honor Scorsese with DeMille award

LOS ANGELES—GOLDEN GLOBE DREAMS! on recently said they will honor director Martin Scorsese with the Cecil B. DeMille award at their upcoming ceremony, signifying his contribution to entertainment.

Scorsese, director of classic films such as "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas" and the Oscar and Golden Globe winner, "The Departed," is widely considered among the best directors of his generation which gained popularity—and notoriety—in the 1970s.

Contributions

But, his contributions don't stop at making blockbusters. Earlier this decade, the 66-year-old director filmed a documentary series about music called "Martin Scorsese Presents: The Blues," and he founded the non-profit organization, The Film Foundation and the World Cinema Foundation, which are dedicated to film preservation and restoration.

The Golden Globe Awards, which honor the year's best films, US television shows, and performances, are given out by members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in a gala ceremony held annually in Beverly Hills and seen on television in some 160 countries around the world. The 67th Golden Globe Awards will take place on Jan. 17, and nominations for awards will be announced on Dec. 15.

Reuters

SCORSESE. His promotion gained popularity—and notoriety—in the '70s.

Fil-Am designs 'Christmas Carol' characters

LOS ANGELES—Chalk up another one for Filipino creativity and artistry making an impact in cinema. Manila-born Noel Ramone Robles helped design some of the characters in "Disney's A Christmas Carol," director Robert "Bob" Zemeckis' version of the classic Dickens tale, starring Jim Carrey.

For the film, which utilizes performance capture, a process that digitally captures an actor's movements (that are tracked and translated into computer generated images), Noel designed the groundbreaking motion camera helmet, which tracks facial movements. Noel's invention, which he developed for Robert's ImageMovers Digital studio (IMD), allows the emotional expressions of actor Jim Kim, who plays various characters, to be digitally captured. Emotionally dead eyes, a criticism leveled about the performance-capture technology, is now a thing of Christmases past.

When he worked for George Lucas' "Star Wars, Episodes I and II" films at his friend Skywalker Ranch, Noel helped design Count Dooku's lightsabers. George himself picked a sword named "Sarong" from Noel's personal collection of mostly Philippine-made swords as the design inspiration for Count Dooku's lightsabers.

Fighting style

Noel, who is skilled in eskrima, demonstrated the Filipino martial art that streams stick, knife and sword fighting to the art department working on the "Star Wars" episode films. Noel's eskrima demos inspired the fighting style of the Jedis.

The fairy-tales loved going to Rizal Park, Manila Zoo and other landmarks has indeed come a long way. Working with IMD since 2007, Noel is leading his talents next to various projects, including "Yellow Submarine," Robert's performance-capture 3D digital re-make of the Beatles' 1968 animated film, and "Mars Needs Moms!"

"A Christmas Carol" will be shown in digital 3D and some screens in the Philippines. Excerpts of our e-mail interview with Noel, who lives in the East Bay area of Northern California:

What exactly did you do as a character designer on 'A Christmas Carol'?

I was involved in helping design the characters of "A Christmas Carol." Doug Chiang, the production designer, would give notes throughout on the characters, and we would go off and do our take on a particular character. I worked on every character, except for Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. During post-production, I also helped design the weather runs in the beginning of the movie and redesigned Scrooge's nephew and the Cratchits' dining room table. I had fun creating the look of the Ghost of Christmas Present's feet dissolving from flesh to bone to dust.

What was it like working with Robert Zemeckis?

This is the third movie that I've worked with Bob. It's always a pleasure to be working with someone who's so creative and innovative. We always know that he'll come up with a great story.

Technology

Can you talk about how performance-capture technology has progressed from "The Polar Express" and "Beowulf," both of which you also worked on, to "A Christmas Carol?"

"We're some along way since we did "The Polar Express." The main reason is that, we are in control of how we animate the characters now. Before, we would design the look of the film, then have another studio deal with the animation.

Since IMD is Bob's studio now, we have more control of what we do and how we want it to look. The main thing that has improved the look of this film is that we're able to see all the nuances of the muscles of the face. I'm proud to say that I had a small part in that process. I came up with the design for the motion camera (Mocam) helmet, which resembles a bike helmet with cameras attached to a rod, that captures a person's facial movements. Bill wanted to have a slender and less cumbersome helmet. I was able to achieve that.

The whole process was stressful, since I only had two days to design the Mocam helmet and another day to build. I pulled an all-nighter that paid off handsomely. I gathered a team from our practical-model shop. We worked on creating a functional helmet. Our deadline was tight, but we were able to achieve that within five weeks.

Best compliment

The best compliment came from the studio that was capturing all the data for our motion capture shoot. They said that out of a hundred studios, ours looked and worked the best. They were pretty divided on how fast we were able to turn it around, since in the film industry, it usually takes up to a year for a studio to develop a helmet like this.

What was your affinity to "A Christmas Carol" as a child?

I've always loved the story of "A Christmas Carol." Growing up, I have always looked forward to watching Albert Finney's "Scrooge" on TV. For the last several years, our family has been going to the "Great Dickens Christmas Fair" in San Francisco at the Cow Palace. The sets look like old London, and everyone is dressed and speaks to old English. I was pretty excited to hear that we would be working on Disney's "A Christmas Carol" and to finally see it onscreen is pretty amazing! This is the best motion capture 3D film that we've worked on, and I think it shows!

Can you talk about your work on "Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace" and "Episode II: Attack of the Clones?"

"Episode I" was my first film experience and the first time I met Doug Chiang. I had very few minutes to have been able to work on those movies. I learned a great deal from Doug and all the artists. That was like my film-set school. We had meetings with George Lucas's every week, and the experience to work with talented artists, especially George, was phenomenal.

I did mostly Photoshop work and built a lot of the full-scale models. But, the thing that I'm most proud of is that I was able to contribute to the design of Count Dooku's lightsabers. We were coming up with the look of the lightsabers and Doug had one line up all of my own swords on the table. They were mostly Philippine swords, and George picked the handle of the Sarong, which was my favorite. I strategically placed it in the center, and I'm glad it was the one chosen for Count Dooku's lightsabers.

I'm also proficient in eskrima and did a demonstration for the art department to show a different style (on how the Jedi's would fight. It was also great working with Ben Burtt on the animation of the chase scene with Anakin Skywalker and the Sarong Master in "Episode II."

I grew up admiring Ben, as he was the sound designer of the original "Star Wars" movies, and he was the best person to work with. He's very humble and down to earth!

Where were you born in the Philippines?

I was born in Manila. My father is Rolando Herrera Robles from Bicol, and my mother is Cleotia Ramirez Robles from Batanes. I remember being 3 years old and always drawing. My father is actually a pretty good artist, and he would always encourage me to entertain his cousins such as "The Hulk," "Captain America" and "Superman."

I was inspired by my father to draw at an early age. It wasn't till later on that I realized that my talent is a good ability. I always drew to entertain myself and cousins, and how she always pretended to be Barbie.

Memories

What are your memories of growing up in the Philippines?

Growing up, I have fond memories of going to Rizal Park (spending time on the playground), Intramuros (Fort Santiago garden), Manila Zoo, Manila Aquarium, Shaver Mercado and the Cuneta Astrodome.

I also remember attending family gatherings and going to Bicol, where I remember my cousin Ernie prom-ed (got a promise at age 5. That really scared me! That's why I remember that incident with my cousin very vividly! In a way, my cousin helped me overcome that fear because, now, I love donating memories that have cameras or shutters.

At what age did you move to the US?

My family of four (I have an older sister) moved to San Francisco when I was 6 years old. My parents told me that I was always crying when I was younger; but once we moved to the States, I stopped crying. Perhaps, it was the shock of

SATURDAY Special

"SAILING." One of the artist-director's best works.

Cesar Montano, visual artist

By Nestor U. Torre

AS IF HIS IMMIgrant entry into the political arena (running for governor in Bulacan) weren't controversy enough, Cesar Montano recently surprised some of his friends and many of his fans by mounting his first solo art exhibit at the Ayala Museum.

Critics have expressed the misgiving that the actor-director-producer-writer is spreading himself too thin, but Montano is unfazed by the criticism. He says he has been painting since he was a child, and that painting is his way of relaxing from the pressures of his many projects.

Montano's work is a mixture of realism and abstraction, with a strong emphasis on color and texture. His subjects are mostly drawn from his own life and experiences, and he says he paints what he feels rather than what he sees.

The exhibit, which runs until December 15, features 30 paintings and 10 sculptures. Admission is free.

MONTANO. Passionate about his hobby and his endangered species.

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TREE-PLANTING ceremony at "Memory of Nanjing" exhibit signifies that life goes on after tragedy

Chinese exhibit depicts atrocities of war

By Rony Ureneta

FILIPINOS CAN NOW VIEW CHINA'S "Memory of Nanjing" exhibit at the Bahay Tsinoy, Intramuros. Ang Heritage Center, at Anderson Cuddle-ste., Intramuros, Manila. It's a miniature version of the outstanding Nanjing Memorial Hall in China, and includes vintage photographs and artifacts.

The Nanjing Memorial Hall is the most frequented museum in China, registering 1.4 million visitors last year. It was built to pay tribute to the 300,000 civilians who were killed by Japanese invaders at Nanjing in the 1930s and is considered one of the finest and most modern museums in the world.

You can't help but be moved by the dramatic and poignant depiction of the massacre. While the museum portrays the cruelties of war, at the end of the exhibit, the visitor is encouraged to help work for peace.

The "Memory of Nanjing" is part of the Sinthanga Exhibition arrangement with Philippine Veterans Bank's traveling WWII exhibit, which has been on display at the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall since April. Over 900,000 visitors have seen the exhibit. "The Bike of Our Fathers...A Tribute to Filipino Freedom Fighters," which shows the Filipinos at his heavens, defending the country against foreign aggression.

History

The Chinese and Filipinos have a shared history, because they both endured the same suffering during World War II. In the Philippines, over 100,000 civilians were killed in the Battle for Manila by withdrawing Japanese troops during the war.

Both exhibits are in partnership with the Mercato Federation of the Philippines, the German Culture Committee, Ratna Pera Sa Kinabuhan and Bahay Tsinoy. Through the project, the organizers hope that people will constantly be reminded of the atrocities of war, and that everyone has a responsibility to continuously work for peace.

Martita Hunt was spectacularly original

By Bebe Cervantes

HUNT trouble mark

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS" WAS ONE OF the earliest films I saw, and it truly captivated me. I remember being surrounded by the mood, pace and atmosphere created by David Lean in that black and white 1946 classic based on Charles Dickens' dark but amusing novel. The movie taught me what ambiance and texture meant in cinema.

"Great Expectations" also introduced me to the lovely Jean Simmons, who would soon play Ophelia opposite Sir Laurence Olivier in "Hamlet." However, the performance who really tickled my imagination was the spectacularly original Martita Hunt, who portrayed the elusive eldest social lady who plotted young Simmons' life so she would be transformed into a ruthless sophisticate who would break men's hearts as hers had been broken.

Singular effect

I never forgot Hunt's grotesque mannerisms and contralto voice—what a delightful oddball she was! Many character actresses of her era tried to achieve the same singular effect, but few succeeded as well as she did so easily as a Frau—and she was an original.

Hunt was born in Argentina and didn't grow her father home country, England, until she was 18. Thereafter, she started training as an actress and played supporting roles for Liverpool's repertory companies. She soon brought to London to appear in such plays as "The Imaginary Invalid," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Julius Caesar" and "The Merchant of Venice."

Hunt was considered by critics as the best

Kris Allen ...

From page B

totally comfortable with on-camera interviews, despite some past "idiot" media training. His goofy, easy-go demeanor remains endearing, even when the chime from a friend's tattoo earns him enough interrupts the interview.

"If I can help one soul to describe this entire experience, it would be ours," Allen muses. "It's fun going from being a happily married guy into the music industry and this crazy world of entertainment. In the end, I get to do exactly what I like to do—to make music. That's what makes me happy, and that has always driven me."

Allen is looking forward to touring with his band next year and hopes to keep an Allen family Christmas tradition going strong this holiday. Every year, Allen's brother gives him and his brothers (hanes), a new pair of pajamas and a board game, which they play...no matter how long it takes—before going to bed.

Allen already knows what game he wants this year. "The new Monopoly with the big towers," he says, his eyes widening. "You can build cities! It's weird."

"2012," depicted the life (and chills).

Convincing images of mass destruction in latest apocalytic flick

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT IS IT ABOUT US VIEWERS that makes us pay good money to watch a film about the imminent end of the world? Has pretty much seems as to kingdom come?

The confounded thought hit us as we were watching Roland Emmerich's latest apocalypse saga, "2012," relying with the other people in the movie theater as the destruction of the planet we call home is savagely detailed for our "entertainment."

This is fun at the movies? So, it's mesmerizing to watch and bemoan as it should—but, behold it, we do, transfixed by the fiction prospect of our own mass prediction.

Prospects

Why are we such parties for communal punishment? As if our evil travails weren't daunting enough, why do we allow masters of digitized destruction to terrify us with dire prospects of destruction that may never come to pass?

The Greeks had a word for it: Catharsis, defined as the release of pent-up emotions through a virtual experience like watching an exciting production.

We can also call it a sub "re-boucott" for any real disaster or other negative experience that life may have in store for us. Since it isn't real, we can "practice" how we would react if it actually did come true—and that safety valve makes it OK for us to ruthlessly express the emotions resulting from the imagined tragedy.

This, in fact, is why many of us hotbay to watch productions about disasters in the first place. In the safe facsimiles of life that they provide, they transform up emotions and insights we need to get a hold of our real lives, and to master them.

What makes "2012" an even more unprofessionally scary experience is the detailed verisimilitude that the film mediates's state of the-art digitizing presents provides.

It enables its makers to come up with staggeringly convincing images of mass destruction that expose viewers to crushed themselves that they're "just" watching a fiction film, as they really don't need to run out of the theater and rush home to take their kids to the highest peak in sight!

Unfortunately, the film's fierce reliance on its visual wizardry has led it to give mind-blown attention to its empathetic storytelling, beyond its compelling images of death and destruction on a global scale.

Cliche attempts

An effort is made to bring the destruction down to empathetically human terms, but they are pretty much formula, cliché attempts that come off as half-hearted, taken compared to the production's prodigiously lush and lavish visual narrative.

"2012" cophilia stars like John Cusack and Amanda Peet but, truth to tell, they are thoroughly upstaged by the computerized mayhem happening around them.

So, what's a viewer to do? Focus on the production's digitized thrills and chills, and leave well enough alone. That may not be everything, but it'll have to do. And, for some viewers, it could be more than enough, less than fully cathartic though the experience may be.

DIMALANTA. Mass rewarding activity.

Gifts for the soul

GIFT-GIVING IS A MOST REwarding activity, but it's sometimes tricky. What do you give someone who has everything?

Number this difficulty by thinking what he or she likes and dislikes. Another important consideration is the budget. However, if you're not tied down by budget constraints, "gifts for the soul" should be considered, like artworks.

Source of inspiration

Paintings give the recipient a visual source of inspiration. And, when paintings are given as gifts, they will forever be identified with the giver. Art's really Gallery owner, Jenny Dimalanta, believes that the best gift for someone is a work of art.

So, choose your options at the Artwalk Gallery, Galleria Arte, Galerie Andrea, Gallery Big, Slaves Bronze Galleries and Ariaa Artspace—and they're all under one roof! The 3H Design Plaza, 210 Hamner Garcia st., formerly Sequoia, Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call at us ushers in the holiday season with new collections from 33 showrooms.

Spend these days in paradise at the Manoly Navarro Resort. Enjoy Safari in February, March and April and learn about nature-ups, perfumery, fashion and macro photography. A discount is given if you register on or before Dec. 15.

STREET SMART

Manoly Navarro

Kris Allen ...

From page 19

started recording a song that ended up being about the guitar in it, still, which wasn't the greatest guitar in the world."

His booming wife's face became a constant presence in the audience during Allen's "Idol" seasons, a move that judge Simon Cowell teased as risk of scaring off female fans. Throughout the post "Idol" seasons—the tour, the recording, the trip to Disney World—Allen says she's kept him fully grounded and embraced their move from Arkansas to Los Land.

Nice-guy demeanor

Allen admits he doesn't mind being mobbed by fans in public, because "people are usually nice about it." But, he's still not

ABS-CBN

Ilocos Norte's favorite snack

I DIDN'T A LOT OF TIME IN LAOAG, ILOCOS Norte, in the early '80s to help out my in-laws. But one of the things I remember most about the country, after work, I would race off on my motorcycle to nearby Laoag, and walk around the market and check out the different stations of sweaguinos, dried dilis and the addicting bagoo. There were other unique items, as well—like the guinat, which is similar to the Japanese tempura), sort, but thicker.

Favorite snack

It was a treat to hang around them Ilocos Body Parts' favorite (see stand. Taxes et ano). Ilocos or ensaymada to Ilocos Norte's favorite snack and a staple to town fiestas. The regular version is an orange-colored snack made of rice flour, with a filling of mongo, shredded green papaya, and cooked and shredded longganisa.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

A special version adds egg in the tasty mix. Deep-fried right before your eyes, it's crunchy, tempts in taste and appearance—and simply delicious.

As soon as you take a tray bite from the tip, smoke comes out of the taste, and the aroma of the unique combination fills your nostrils. You then dunder the bake with locally made sukang Iloko, mixed with dli and other ingredients, and the second bite will give you a glimpse of the province's culinary creativity. I love it.

Laoag has a delicious variety but the ad vantage of Ilocos's version, which contains the same ingredients, is that it uses Batac longganisa, which I personally prefer.

Authentic taste

Among the Ilokanos-inspired malls in the metropolis-wist area owned by Nilloy de Guzman at Market! Market! The tasty one isn't standing. Ilocos Empanada is at 326 Rodriguez st., Loyola Heights, Quezon City (call 928-8669 or 0917 536-0834). The place makes its own longganisa. There's even a chicken version, but the original is still the best.

Ilocos Norte is having a festival, "Museo Ilocos Norte," which features all those specialties at Market!Market!. The guest foodie can also call Glenda Barretto and Claude Tayag will be in charge of the food items on offer at the Rockwell fest on Dec. 4, from 6 to 10 p.m. Check it out.

Happy eating!

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YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

The story of the Christmas Star

By Nestor G. Torre

BELLA STELLA NO. 1 faced a group of other stars huddled in close conference. What could it be that they were so interested in? Perhaps they were talking about her—she was now here (she had been created just three million years ago). With her heart flattering with excitement, she edged closer to the group of stars and cocked her ear. She recognized Stella Polaris, who was reputed to be the oldest among all the stars, and was just in time for what she was saying.

"I say I should be chosen," she frowned assertively as her wisdom spread. Some said sudden nods. "I'm the oldest here, and I know my way around. Anybody who thinks otherwise is crazy. What do you say, Stella Tinsley?" The small, ancient star looked at her and wheezed.

No contest

"Just as you say—there is no contest at all." A few other stars nodded in assent. Stella Stella stepped over on the shoulder and when she turned, she asked, "What are you so excited about? It seems to be something extra big, as have Stella Fortuna so worked up."

"It is big!" whispered the other star. "The Good Lord has announced that he will choose a star to go down to planet Earth and stand over a stable and..."

"A stable?" gasped Stella Stella. "What in the world for?"

"You didn't let me finish. God the Son is becoming a man called Jesus, and He will go down to the stable to sleep."

"Well," said Stella Stella, "that's certainly silly. Whoever heard of a multi-billionaire sleeping in a stable? The customs here in Heaven are more mighty stranger." She flashed the star, slipped back into her orbit and promptly forgot the whole incident.

Huge sign

The next day, a huge sign in gold-plated letters was put up in the town square. After spelling through it, Stella Stella found out that it said that:

"Announcing the Signal Invitation! It decks which star will act as convoy for our Prince, Lord Jesus, on his descent to Earth. All contests must be accompanied with two empty cartons of *Star Soap* and a full-page photograph of the applicant. Stars under 20,000,000 years old need not apply."

All the other stars were keyed up by the contest, but Bella Stella was just not interested. It was silly, and besides, she was underage. So, she whiled away the time by engaging in her favorite pastime, chasing meteors as they whizzed past her.

When the contest had ended and the results were known, it was announced that Stella Fortuna had won the coveted first prize. The date of her descent was set for Dec. 24th, and the whole of Heaven was a tangled ball of jam as it prepared itself for the historic event.

The dawn of Dec. 24th came, and the Sun let thrones with a radiant, golden glow. Bella Stella, the only star who had not left her orbit to join in the celebration, was fat, fat out in space, enjoying a bird's eye view of the proceedings.

At about 9 o'clock in the evening, the star that the launching ceremonies were about to begin. She leaned forward, but an arching vault of light caught the corner of her eye. *Attention!*

Immediately, she forgot all about the paternity and excitement, dipped out of her orbit, and headed for the source. Her heart beating fast, the cold air cutting her face as she dove from the ionosphere through all the other spheres she could think of. The meteor, the nimbus, seemed to be quoting over as it fell. Still she fell faster, it was gone. And suddenly Stella Stella was afraid.

Goosebumps

She looked around, but saw a whole mass of goosebumps. She headed for the nearest star, but found below, and all the stars and planets were solemnly at last. The air was warmer, and the sky was not as inky black as it was before. "I must get back to Heaven," she thought.

But, do what she would, she could not check her fall. It was as if a great, invisible hand was dragging her down, down to ... where? She darted one temporal, fainted, all the time, she fell... and fell!

One hour later, she had calmed down, and was looking around her. It was then that she made the mistake of looking down. Her stomach turned, rumbled, and she gasped. For it was what she saw that shook her, for she saw—Earth.

She banked, she struggled, but she could not shake off the shackles that dragged her down. She fell... and fell... and down, she tapped. She could see mountains, forests, silvery and raindrop that were rivers. She wished, for she knew that something would happen. And soon, something did happen. Sue, it was happening thousands of miles away from her down on Earth...

Unfathomable light

The couple had just been denied a room in the inn. The man, dressed and long, coldly bid the man, upon which his wife answered. She was young, that wife of his, but her eyes shone with a mature, unfathomable light. They were about to get to crowded inn, when the girl looked up and beheld it.

Tonight, up there, atop that hill—there, that one. Illuminated by that strange star—that is a stable, it is not!"

"Why, so it is, Mary," the man smiled through his scars, "so it is!" And, their weariness all but left and entered the stable, and "She brought forth a son and laid him in the manger. And a host of Angels came from heaven and sang, 'Glory to God in the Highest, and forth peace to Men of Goodwill!'"

And, there, Bella Stella shines and twinkles to this day. She is happy, for she has gotten to like her position, and has become quite famous. Maybe you have read about her—she is the Christmas Star of Bethlehem.

Cesar Montano, visual artist

From page 6

around, shunning close of his star status alone, but his getting into Antidilipinar is an implied endorsement of his solid or at least promising artistic talent.

Cognizant of this, we hastened to catch Cesar's first art exhibit, and there are our findings: The artist's more impressive works are distinct partly because they use the impasto technique that builds up canvas surfaces, the better to add both and depth for the artist to paint over—or not—it as goes.

Cesar's others in the same are only occasionally successful and effective. But what they do is to make his works distinct from those by other artists. His technique may sometimes be dodgy but it's his, and in the art world, that's a key consideration.

Moody portrait

We've seen the artworks of other stars who paint, and most of them are quite unattractive and derivative (some exceptions: Johnny Delgado, Gary V., Sandwich), but what you want about Cesar's level of visual artistry, his derivative is not.

One of his best paintings is his largest, a moody portrait of a body's man and some features of Isadora, to the noble sons of the soil? Cesar certainly isn't saying, so we read away.

Cesar's solemn for the environment is evident in a smaller work on the pewter. The passions are love for nature and its endangered creatures is clear, but the painting is less successful artistically, because it's so pale and tentative.

Even less effective is Cesar's series of flower paintings, done in less than felicitous splotches and washes. All told, therefore, Cesar's "First Impression" exhibit is a natural artistic outing—but, as was the Dredging visual artist to continue flexing his wings, so his talent can develop further, and viewers can have another experience—the artist can too.

"BOUQUET" 2005. "Margo" (above) and "Green Bamboo" (below).

There's an iconic and even architectonic feel to the painting, with intimations towards and beyond the readily apparent. In that Cesar's personal, as his tribute

3D spices up battle for Oscar animation glory

LOS ANGELES—A RECORD 21 MOmated films will vie for Oscar glory in a 2010 race stuffed with wildly popular 3D offerings, such as "Up," "Astro Boy," "Monster vs. Aliens" and "Disney's A Christmas Carol."

Computer-generated Mom into Movie and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" will duel against stop-motion pictures like "Coraline" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox," as well as the hand-drawn offerings, "The Princess and the Frog" and "Ponyo."

More than anything, the list announced recently by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences shows a bumper crop of 2009 animation features boosted by the mainstream renaissance of 3D.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL": Charles Dickens' holiday staple gets a three-dimensional makeover.

"THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG": Disney's hand-drawn animation gets the treatment for the golden standard.

In the running

Others in the running: "Battle for Terra," "Coraline," "Fantastic Mr. Fox," "Ghosts," "Monsters vs. Aliens," "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," "Planet 51," "The Secret of Kells," "Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure" and "A Town Called Panic."

If at least 16 films qualify—some still have to fulfill the stipulation of a week long run in Los Angeles cinemas—the Academy will be forced to expand the number of nominees from three to five. This hasn't happened once in the past, when 17 films qualified in 2002, and Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki's fantasy "Spirited Away" claimed the Oscar.

Films nominated in the Animated Feature Film category can also run in other categories, including Best Picture. To date, the only animated feature ever to do so was the Disney classic, "Beauty and the Beast," in 1991.

Next year's Academy Awards will take place on March 7 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. The nominations for Best Feature-Length Animated will be announced on Feb. 2. The first ever Oscar for Animated Feature Film was won in 2001 by "Shrek." AP

Kris Allen remains humble on new album

LOS ANGELES—KRIS ALLEN knows he's not garnering as much attention as Adam Lambert—and that's OK with him. Since foiling Lambert at the American Idol finale last May, the 24-year-old singer from Conway, Arkansas, hasn't appeared on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine and declared he's gay. His music can't be heard during the credits of the apocalyptic action flick "2012." And, you won't find him posing in a sexy Details photo shoot with a naked woman.

"I don't mind," an always modest Allen says, while perched in "Idol" overlord Simon Fuller's quiet office 10 stories above the Sunset Strip. "I think that's how I sweat through the competition, as well. And, it worked out. That's how I'm going to do my music career. I'm just going to do my thing and, hopefully, it will work out."

His thing now is his self-titled al-

ALLEN: His self-titled debut album is filled with craftsmanship and toe-tapping rock tunes.

bum, which comes out a week before Lambert's "For Your Entertainment" is scheduled for release. At one might expect after watching his soulful "Idol" rendition of Kanye West's "Heartless" and "Falling Slowly" from the indie musical, "Once," Allen's album is filled with melodic ballads and toe-tapping rock tunes.

Allen teamed with experienced producers like Toby Gad, Steve Kipner, Andrew Frampton and Anders Bagge, but contributed more than just his voice and guitar and piano-playing prowess. Allen's name appears on the opening line credits for all but four of the album's 13 songs—including "Red Guitar," a dirty Allen avant for his wife, Katy, before his "Idol" run.

Red guitar

"I thought my wife a red guitar for her birthday a long time ago, hoping that she would play it," he shrugs. "She never learned how, so it became a wall decoration in our apartment. One day, I took it off the wall and started playing it, and just